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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

CHIEFLY DEVOTED TO

Library Economy and Bibliography

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Contents :

| | PAGE | | PAGE |
|---|------|--|------|
| EDITORIAL. | 167 | VALUE OF LIBRARIES.— <i>Jessie Cohen</i> | 174 |
| A Model Library. | | ACCESS TO SHELVES. | 175 |
| Library Propagandism. | | LIBRARIES AND EDUCATION IN LIVERPOOL. | 175 |
| COMMUNICATIONS. | 168 | DISCRETIONARY CIRCULATION. | 176 |
| L. A. U. K. | | MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC LIBRARY. | 176 |
| Library Propagandism. | | IOWA STATE LIBRARY CIRCULAR. | 177 |
| Map Symposium. | | AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION. | 177 |
| NIGHT IN THE LIBRARY. (Poem.) | 168 | STATE LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS. | 181 |
| THE CENSOR. (Poem.) | 168 | Connecticut. | |
| NOTES ON THE AMERICAN AND STATE LIBRARY ASSO- | | NEW YORK STATE LIBRARY CLUB. | 182 |
| CIATIONS.— <i>Melville Dewey</i> | 169 | REVIEWS. | 185 |
| REGISTRATION AND COLLECTION OF FINES. III.— | | Catalogue of the Works of Grotius. | |
| <i>Boston Athenaeum, C. A. Cutter; Brooklyn Libra-</i> | | <i>Sacconi's Nuova Sistema</i> . | |
| <i>ry, W. A. Bardwell; St. Louis Free Public Libra-</i> | | LIBRARY ECONOMY AND HISTORY. | 185 |
| <i>ry, H. J. Carr</i> | 170 | LIBRARIANS. | 191 |
| HISTORY OF THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.— <i>S. A. B.</i> | | CATALOGING AND CLASSIFICATION. | 192 |
| <i>Abbott</i> | 173 | BIBLIOGRAPHY. | 193 |
| NEW HAVEN PUBLIC LIBRARY AND THE NEW HAVEN | | ANONYMS AND PSUDONYMS. | 194 |
| HISTORICAL SOCIETY. | 174 | HUMORS AND BLUNDERS. | 194 |

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THE LIBRARY JOURNAL.

VOL. 16.

JUNE, 1891.

NO. 6.

C: A. CUTTER, PAUL L. FORD, *Editors.*

A GOOD many library heads are busily at work in planning for the Library Exhibit at Chicago, particularly for the model library which is to form part of that Exhibit. An interesting experiment is to be tried at the Brooklyn Library, which has a direct bearing on this model library. The directors have voted to utilize a part of the large reading-room on the lower floor for an open library, which will occupy one end of the large room and in which books can be freely taken from the shelves and read in the room by any and all members of the library. It is proposed to make a purchase of about 2500 volumes, carefully selected, roughly allotted as follows:

| | <i>Volumes.</i> |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Biography..... | 300 |
| History..... | 250 |
| Travels..... | 400 |
| Philosophy..... | 50 |
| Education..... | 50 |
| Fine Arts, etc..... | 100 |
| Poetry..... | 200 |
| Drama..... | 75 |
| Essays..... | 100 |
| Political Science..... | 50 |
| Religious..... | 75 |
| Science..... | 250 |
| Fiction..... | 400 |
| Books for children..... | 200 |
| | <hr/> 2,500 |

This will be very nearly on the lines of the Chicago model library, and as it has been decided to print skeleton lists of the most desirable books in each department for such a model library, we shall soon print a list in history prepared by Librarian Bardwell of the Brooklyn Library for his purpose. Similar lists in the several departments will be printed from time to time in the LIBRARY JOURNAL or the *Literary News*, and librarians are requested to follow these lists carefully and notify the A. L. A. Committee on the Chicago Exhibit what books they would strike out as not of first importance or interest, and what books they would add within the limits of the proposed library. In the case of books of which there are rival editions, librarians should also specify which edition is most valuable for the least money in small libraries. By this process of collation and selection a most useful purchasing list for small libraries will ultimately be obtained, and it is hoped that librarians of ex-

perience will co-operate with the committee in making the selection the best possible. The committee propose to prepare a slip on which these returns can be made, but as this scheme may not be carried out, it is desirable that librarians should, in the case of the early lists at least, give their criticisms without waiting for such slips, using preferably the index size of cards, so that their replies may be more easily handled, rather than writing the ordinary letter. These lists and replies will also meet the want expressed by Mr. W. H. Brett in his letter elsewhere. Librarians are also desired to express through the JOURNAL their opinion as to the department proportions suggested.

WE are glad to reprint the editorial by Miss Jessie Cohen, referred to in Mr. Brett's letter calling attention to the value of a public library for the purposes of propagandism. A free library certainly offers advantages in this way which can be obtained by no other means. To a very small extent it has perhaps been utilized. Thomas Paine, when he published his "Age of Reason," sent copies to a few libraries, and complained when they refused to put it upon their shelves. Mathew Carey, when he was convinced of the value of a protective tariff for this country, and printed the astonishing number of pamphlets on that subject, sent sets, and in several cases duplicates, to many libraries. Some 40 years ago Henry Gassett, during the Anti-Masonry trouble, presented to over 100 libraries a series of books opposed to the society. These, so far as we are aware, are the only distinct attempts that have been made as yet to disseminate a doctrine or opinion through the library, and were not only of trifling extent, but were made at a period when libraries were both inadequate and little used. Now we have organized societies for spreading particular theories and arguments, yet it is to be questioned if they take advantage of this extremely cheap and advantageous way. An essay on trusts which appeared in one of the leading magazines a couple of years ago was reprinted in the *New York Sun*, and a single corporation paid advertising rates for its publication in that form. Yet the day after, its effect was over, and it was lost for all time. How much more effective would an edition in book form have been, if sent to public libraries. The or-

ganization of the brewers spends thousands of dollars each year for "reading notices" in the press, but no attempt is made to utilize this means. Yet there can be no question that the average reader not merely is far less likely to forget what he reads in a book than in a newspaper or periodical, but is as well far more apt to believe what is therein stated. We think that the free library is one of the best and most effective ways of reaching the people's ear, and that in the future it will be used for this purpose to its fullest extent.

Communications.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES, NOTTINGHAM, ENG.,
April 20, 1891.

THE next meeting of the Library Association of the United Kingdom will be held here — not at Bristol, as arranged at Reading. The dates fixed are September 15-18.

We shall be delighted if any of our American *confères*, or *conseurs*, will attend.

J. POTTER BRISCOE.

LIBRARY PROPAGANDISM.

I SEND you by this mail a copy of the *Jewish Spectator*, with an article on Public Libraries. The writer is a Cleveland girl who has lately gone to Memphis to write for this paper. There is one thought in the article which I would be glad to see emphasized, and that is the availability of the Public Library as a means of Propagandism. The remarks she makes as to its value in disseminating Jewish opinions is applicable in many ways.

Would the discussion of books — that is, of the best books to have, to duplicate, and to recommend — be out of place in the JOURNAL, or is all this sufficiently covered by the literary journals and reviews which we have "galore"? I have sometimes thought that a comparison of experience as to the most useful books in the library might be good. Of course we must discuss charging systems, registrations, collection of fines, cataloguing, binding, etc., that we may profit by the experience of others and arrive at the best methods, but I value the most expeditious and accurate methods in all these as a means of saving time for more important things. The librarian who can minimize the time spent on these mechanical operations and maximize that spent among the books and with those who use the library, will do the most good.

WM. H. BRETT.

MAP SYMPOSIUM.

I WISH through the columns of your helpful paper to express my appreciation of the courtesy of those librarians who took the time and trouble to respond so fully to my inquiry regarding the arrangement of maps, in the February number of the JOURNAL.

E. L. ADAMS,

Litn. Plainfield (N. J.) P. L.

NIGHT IN THE LIBRARY.

BY C. B.

At four o'clock, this high-shelved room
Contains within its fire-proof walls
The "beauty and the chivalry"
Which tread our college halls.
The whole library force is here
To help unearth the hidden mines
Within the volumes, over which
The evening sun so warmly shines.

But now, from basement to the roof,
This massive pile of brick and stone
Has not one tenant, save the wing
In which I lock myself, alone.
My solitary gas-jet's light,
A distant street-lamp's feeble gleams,
Send ghostly shadows through the space
So lately filled by bright sunbeams.

And in the students' places, round
About this once most modern room
The spectres of past ages rise,
Appear, and vanish in the gloom.
King Lear and Shylock, hand in hand;
Queen Mary, mourning for Calais,
And Macbeth's friends, the witches, come
Before me in their grim array.

Harsh, cruel Alva, stained with blood,
Tortured by conscience, kneels to greet
Charles Fifth, who from his convent-tomb
Steps forth enwrapped in cold Death's sheet.
And silent William, after years
Of self-devotion, toil, and woe,
Once more meets English Sidney, here,
Who helped him conquer, long ago.

And then there come, and never go,
Those living spirits of the past
Who find, in mankind's tardy praise
An honored place in life, at last.
And we who live among the books
Know these great souls, to others known
As dead men only, as the men
To whom God's laws were truly shown.

THE CENSOR.

Sue's a priestess of Minerva,
With a scorn of lighter things;
And no idle smile can swerve her,
For she guards the Pierian springs.
And she draws the sparkling waters
For the learned and the weak,
Giving maidens "Beauty's Daughters,"
And professors crabbed Greek.

In the library fate's thrust her —
A sweet symphony in gray,
With soft eyes whose brilliant lustre
Fairly takes one's breath away.
But still she really seems to know
Each of the weighty tomes
That range from Kipling to De Foe,
From Homer up to Holmes.

If I ask for Herbert Spencer,
Or for Plato or Carlyle,
I can catch the pretty censor
In a faint approving smile;
But at Anna Karenina,
Or the gay *contes* of France,
She wears a cold demeanor
And a blushing, downcast glance.
— Harry Romaine in Puck.

NOTES ON AMERICAN AND STATE LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS.

BY MELVIL DEWEY.

IN the LIBRARY JOURNAL for June, 1890, I pointed out that the time had come when we needed local associations to carry on the rapidly developing modern library work. On July 11, New York organized a State association. Iowa, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Connecticut, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, have followed, and other States are making preparation. There is no longer doubt that every State with any considerable number of librarians will before long have these local associations to do the many important things that otherwise will go undone. The little folder of the New York association, which we are happy to send to all interested, specifies among our objects:

1. To stimulate library interests in the State of New York by means of addresses, articles in the press, circulation of printed matter, action of educational and other bodies likely to be interested, and by all other proper means at its disposal.

2. To secure the fullest possible co-operation with the American Library Association in promoting general library interests which apply as well to New York as to other States.

3. To organize and promote among New York libraries exchange of duplicates, inter-library loans and other forms of co-operation specially such as concern the University of the State of New York, the Department of Public Instruction, the State Library and the New York colleges and academies.

4. To secure from the Legislature in harmony with the broad basis of the new University law, a consolidation and revision of the many existing laws affecting libraries, with any needed new laws in regard to founding libraries, exemption from taxation, subsidies, mutilation of books, distribution of State money to district libraries or other matters affecting the relation of the State to the public libraries.

5. To enroll all whose interest can be depended on and then step by step to work toward the ideal when the libraries of New York shall, in educational efficiency, be second to those of no State or country in the world.

I write these notes in the JOURNAL to urge A. L. A. members in each State which has not yet organized to take immediate steps toward a beginning. After years of constant study of this question, I am fully convinced that as soon as there are five or

more earnest library workers in any State, they ought to put their names together as a State association, which shall grow with the growth of public sentiment and keep its place on the State roll of honor. One of the most important things for 1891 is, therefore, that State associations be started wherever possible. This means personal responsibility, and the reader of this note must not wait till some one else writes or visits and begs him to join in the movement, but his duty is to take the first step himself, if convinced of its wisdom, and consult with those whom he thinks will help on the movement. The success of the State associations already started has been beyond our hopes. We supposed it might take several years to secure as large a membership and attendance as has come in the first months.

THE other great thing, which is even more important than new State associations, can be done by any earnest member unaided or with the co-operation of others. This is to increase substantially our membership. The objects of the A. L. A. appeal strongly to every person interested in education, and it is probably because of indolence or indifference if any member claims that he knows no man or woman who would accept membership with us, if our work were explained and a cordial invitation extended. Every member ought to feel himself in arrears and derelict in duty till he has added at least one new name this year to the A. L. A. roll, and any earnest member, even in a small community, ought to find it possible to get two or three or a dozen new members if he would only present our claims with intelligence and enthusiasm to those most likely to be interested.

We are printing some little folders, giving the constitution, objects, and a brief historic sketch of the A. L. A., to be supplied free on application to any members who wish them to enclose in letters, or to hand to friends. We hope the first edition will be speedily exhausted by those who will undertake their obvious duty in this respect.

As pointed out at our White Mountains meeting, we have just entered on a new and greatly enlarged work. We need a larger membership if we are to carry out our plans. The contribution of the trifling annual fee is important. The

increase in our numbers gives us strength and dignity before the public. But the most important thing is that each member receiving our publications and keeping in touch with the work becomes a centre of interest from whom will radiate the library spirit which is spreading so rapidly over our whole country. The authorities of the Columbian Exposition promise us every reasonable opportunity, and the committee have made their plans for by far the finest and most practical library exhibit ever yet made. Everything points to this opportunity as perhaps the most important in the history of our work. We have done much in the first 15 years, but the opportunities for increasing that good work many fold were never so favorable as now. But this demands personal effort, and unless our members shirk their individual duty, we shall have a record for '91 of which we shall be proud.

AFTER full discussion it was agreed to have a tiny book as an A. L. A. emblem to be worn by those wishing it. These will be manufactured and ready for the San Francisco meeting. The experience of the A. L. A. and similar bodies has shown clearly the desirability of some means of recognizing from what State delegates come. Many have a prejudice against wearing conspic-

uous badges, and our discussion of the subject seems to show general agreement on a bit of narrow ribbon of a distinct color as the simplest, cheapest, and on the whole the most desirable mark. New York adopted purple; the Library School, old gold; and the New Jersey Association at its recent meeting adopted Jersey blue. It seems desirable that each of the State associations when organized should agree on a color which if practicable should easily associate itself with the State. This may be done by taking something associated with the State nickname, e.g., the Empire State took imperial purple, and New Jersey, Jersey blue; New Hampshire as the Granite State, might take granite for its color; Vermont, the Green Mountain State, green, etc. Another suggestion is that the color of the State university or most prominent college of the State will naturally be associated with it, e.g., Harvard crimson for Massachusetts, Yale blue for Connecticut, etc.

If any object that this is a trifling matter, we answer that it is only a trifling labor to select a color; the plan involves practically no expense, as some one will always furnish a package of narrow ribbon to be used at any meeting, and, of course, there would be no rule requiring any one not approving to wear the State color.

REGISTRATION AND COLLECTION OF FINES.—III.

BOSTON ATHENÆUM.

OUR "new" books — that is, books bought within a year — are allowed to be kept out 7, 14 or 30 days, the time being greater for a large than for a small book, and shorter for a book in great demand than for one which few care for. The fine for keeping a book over time is 5 cts. a day. If the fine is not paid when the book is returned we note its amount and the name of the book on which it was incurred on the manilla card on which the address of the proprietor and his payment of his annual subscription are recorded. These cards are kept in alphabetical order in a tin box. The cards of books which the proprietor has out are kept with this manilla card till they are returned. A blank red card is added wherever a fine is due to remind the charging clerk to demand the fine whenever the borrower comes to the library. We let the fines run on till the book is returned; but several times in the course of the year we send out notices to all persons who have had books out over two months. And if any book is asked which has been out over a month we send for it. Ordina-

rily there is no fine on an "old" book; but if it is not returned when it is sent for a fine of 5 cts. begins to run on the third day.

When books which usually are not allowed to circulate are issued for special reasons a limit of time is specified on the card and if they are detained beyond that time a fine of 25 cts. a day must be paid.

As many of our proprietors never come to the library, but send messengers, the prompt collection of fines is not easy. Once a year the following notice is issued:

NOTICE.

21. The annual assessment is due January 1, and no book will be delivered after March 1 to any person from whom an assessment or fine is due, nor after the expiration of a fortnight to any person charged with a payment for lost books or with a fine.

—*Rules for the Library of the Boston Athenæum.*

M.....
The annual assessment on your share (\$5) is still due, and also fines to the amount of _____ and by the rule above the delivery of books must be cut off until this is paid.

Yours respectfully,

C. A. CUTTER, Librarian.

C: A. CUTTER.

BROOKLYN LIBRARY.

THE subject of fines in a subscription library is one that requires some delicacy in its management.

By the regulations of our library, books, except those that are very new, and the works of reference, are allowed to be kept out two weeks. If kept a week beyond this time an ink check is made on the margin of the subscriber's ticket opposite the number of the book out "overtime," and he is mulcted in the sum of ten cents when he returns the book.

As our accounts are kept on slips in the name of the borrower, it is necessary to examine these slips once every week, and make a list of all books charged previous to a given date, and not yet returned. This work is rapidly performed by one of the attendants who devotes a certain day of the week (a kind of "wash-day") to the not very attractive task. The list having been compared with the shelves, and with a list kept of books returned, but not found charged to the person making the return (in order to make sure that the book is still out), a printed notice is mailed, requesting the return of the book, and quoting the regulation regarding books thus kept. This notice is usually all that is required to procure the return of the book, but in some cases a second notice or a written request is necessary, a small percentage of humanity generally requiring to be specially urged to the performance of duty.

There are sometimes a few persons who fail to respond even to "special" notices. In such cases, and occasionally, as time permits, a list of names and residences of delinquents is written out, and a stout boy provided with this list and a strap (to strap the books with as collected) calls on them.

An extra charge is made in cases where a messenger is sent, the amount varying according to the trouble taken in each individual case. The amounts collected for fines are noted on a slip kept for the purpose, and the total is entered in a book prepared for an itemized account of each day's cash receipts, a statement being made up from this book and sent to the Treasurer of the Board of Directors every Monday.

The charge of ten cents for books kept out beyond three weeks goes to cover the expense of making up lists and for postage on notices, printing, etc., and also to form a fund for the purchase of such books as cannot be collected, and must be replaced, owing to departure of the borrower for parts unknown.

In case a book is lost, the subscriber is charged the cost of another copy with which to replace it.

W. A. BARDWELL.

ST. LOUIS FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

THE following description should be understood as having application chiefly to the work of a (free) public library. At the same time the method might be also of service in other libraries where books are loaned for a definite term, and the charge is kept on a ticket or slip rather than a ledger account.

Having charge-slips (of either the temporary or permanent form), arranged by (taker's) card number, or in order of book number, as the case may be, in bundles or divisions each containing all of one day's issues grouped by themselves, than at a certain date all of such charge-slips remaining undrawn from one bundle will represent books which have just begun to be out over time, so that a fine is commencing to run on each one. A fine-ticket is then to be made out and placed with or attached to each overdue charge. Such tickets are best on a printed form, of proper shape and size to file conveniently with the corresponding charge-slips; and likewise on paper of a color contrasting well with that of the latter slips.

The writer having used both taker and book-slips of the so-called permanent form, in size 5 x 12.5 cm. (2 x 5 inches, scant), one on white or yellow bristol and the other on manilla board, it became correspondingly convenient to have the fine-tickets of cherry color and made of same width (5 cm.), but only 11 cm. long, so that when placed upright in front of the respective charge-slip each might drop 1.5 cm. below, and thus leave the heading of the slip in view.

Here is the form finally adopted:

Card No.

Book.

FINE.

From.

To.

.....Cts.

NOTES.

No. 1.Cts.

No. 2. "

Sent for. "

..... "

Total.Cts.

Paid.

(F)

When used the blanks on the fine-ticket are not all filled at the outset, but only so much as needed; and it becomes a sort of continuous receptacle for later entries.

On the first morning of delinquency the bundle of overdue charge-slips is taken in hand. A like number of fine-tickets having had that date stamped or written on the line "*From*" (to show when the fine commenced to run), then in the spaces "*Card No.*" and "*Book*" are entered those numbers from the respective slips. Line between "*Card No.*" and "*Book*" is reserved for name of the party delinquent, which may or may not be entered at the outset, according to demands of the charging method in vogue.

So long as the fine is still running and stands a chance of being duly paid upon return of the book, such name is not essential unless the original charge is filed under name rather than by card or book number. Each fine-ticket thus prepared is duly filed in front of or attached to its corresponding charge, so that it cannot well be a feasible matter to withdraw the charge-slip when cancelling the charge upon return of the book without directly noticing the fine-ticket, even did the fact of the slip being in the "overdue" box escape one's attention. In hurried working, however, all such safeguards are of aid and service. Upon return of the book the fine accrues and ceases to run. The date of such return being forthwith entered or stamped on the line "*To*," it becomes a quick and simple matter to compute the time of detention and enter the amount of fine in the next line, "... *Cts.*" If the fine be paid then and there, that fact is noted by stamp or entry at the place "*Paid*," at the bottom of the ticket, showing date and to whom paid. The ticket goes over into the cash-drawer with the money, for tally at the end of the day; which latter being done its service is completed.

Some overdue books do not come in so easy, however, but have to be followed up. Hence a further use of the fine-ticket in question for such cases. After being delinquent for a certain number of days, according to the respective rules, a notice is usually sent. In space "*No. 1*" under "*NOTICES*," that date is noted, and if a charge for such notices is made its amount is also entered there. So, too, if a subsequent notice be sent space "*No. 2*" is utilized. Failing then to bring a result and a messenger being despatched, that date is noted in space "*Sent for*," and its charge, if any, duly entered. If a charge for damage or other special fact is to be noted, the next blank line provides for that.

The book being finally brought in its return date is noted in space "*To*," as before described, the fine computed and together with the accrued costs noted in one amount in the "*Total*" space. If paid at the time, the "*Paid*" date and transfer to cash-drawer follow as previously instanced.

A still further disposition of the fine-ticket will be called for, where the fine is *not* paid simultaneously with the return of the book. In such case the final date is entered; the fine, etc., computed and noted; the "*Book*" entry crossed out, to show that it has been duly returned; then the fine-ticket is to be filed for future attention. If a "permanent" taker-slip is in use then the fine-ticket drops into place in front of such slip; or, if preferred, may be temporarily attached to it. If no slip of that kind is in use nor other like "check" on the taker's card, the unpaid tickets may be filed in a special bundle either numerically or by the parties' name. With some libraries they would be placed in the registration index or attached to the respective "applications" on file.

As a safeguard against an unpaid charge being overlooked, when the party owing same calls at a later date to make use of the library card, it has been found of advantage to have a little rubber stamp with which to mark such cards under last entry at the time of the book's return, thus:

Fine due.

..... *Cts.*

If the card was not at hand for such treatment, when the book was so returned, then its unstamped return date will show the default and attract attention to the unpaid fine.

If the unpaid fines are to be further followed up, after a time, and payment thereof demanded of the principal (and possibly of the surety), then a record should be made of such unpaid fines as each one accrues; and properly at the time of filing the unpaid fine-tickets away, as already indicated. For that purpose a cap or small cap book will answer nicely, with entries showing No. of card; name of delinquent, and address; amount of fine; when accrued, etc. On the opposite page may be given space for subsequent continuing entries of duns being sent; and of final disposition.

That due credit may be given, it only remains to say that the fine-ticket above described is but an amplification of ideas derived from others some years ago; and made perhaps a little more formal and systematic in application.

Particularly from Mr. Linderfelt, of the Milwaukee P. L., and Mr. Soldan, of the Peoria P. L., were received the most pertinent suggestions in that line. The latter gentleman has subsequently provided for a consecutive numbering of the fine-tickets, which, if the writer correctly understands it, is intended as a check on the due accounting for all such collections. The items thus brought into the library treasury produce quite a round sum in the course of a year, if the home circulation is at all active. Yet coming as they do in cents rather than in dollars, and sprinkling along at all hours and on any and all days, it would seem as if the integrity of good attendants might as well be the chief reliance for the proper transit of such petty amounts to the cash-drawer.

H: J. CARR.

HISTORY OF THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDING.

BY S. A. B. ABBOTT.

From the Boston Globe, April 14.

THE idea of a new building was started back in about 1879, when Mr. Prince was Mayor. The first thing done was to obtain a grant from the Legislature of that particular lot of land that we are at present building upon. They granted us, I think, about 33,000 feet. Then the whole matter was in the hands of the City Council for six years after that grant was made. The grant required the city, originally, to begin the building within three years, and then that grant was prolonged for another three years.

Meanwhile the City Council took the matter out of the hands of the trustees entirely. We had no control—they occasionally asked our opinion, but further than that we were nothing. The first move towards building was, I think, to ask the trustees to report upon the practicability of using the new Latin High School for a library building.

The trustees then employed Mr. Van Brunt and went over the building very carefully, and the result was that they reported they didn't think it was a feasible plan. The report was printed, and there was a minority report by Mr. Whitmore dissenting from the whole thing. Mr. Whitmore was always in favor very much of using the Latin High School for a library and making a new school-building for the Latin High School. This was in 1882.

At the time when we were asked to report about the High School Mr. Whitmore brought up the question of whether we could build a small building on the present lot where we are, and we asked Mr. Clough, who was then City Architect, to make sketch plans. He made a sketch at that time. There was no elevation, nothing but the floor plan, and he said the material of which it was to be made was not decided or any particulars gone into, further than to show the floor plan for a building, which would cover about half the lot. His proposition was not then to build over

the whole library lot, but only a part, and he estimated that the cost would be \$15 a square foot. But that estimate of course amounted to nothing, because it was not known how the building was to be finished, no elevations were ever made, and it wasn't even known what material it was to be built of—stone, brick, or anything else. It was merely a matter of guesswork. The estimate was \$450,000. At all events, the city did nothing about that. It was never considered further than to say that they wouldn't take the old High School. Then they started on the matter of the competitive plans.

We had a great number of plans submitted to us, and most of them, I suppose, were for buildings that would cost as much as this building. I don't believe one of them could be built cheaper. We went carefully over them, and came to the conclusion that there wasn't any plan among them which we would recommend to the city to adopt. The order of the City Council was that we should award prizes for the four best plans. But there wasn't any one of them a proper plan upon which to build a library. The city then paid the prizes.

Then the City Council passed an order that the City Architect should build a structure, the plans to be approved by the trustees.

Mr. Vinal was the City Architect. He undertook to build a building to satisfy himself. It was his idea that he should satisfy himself, and that he had no responsibility whatever to us. Naturally we didn't agree on that line very long, but he never submitted any plans to us. He made plans, I understand, for himself, but the only plans of anything that we ever saw were four photographs or pictures of a building (not drawn plans) and a photograph of an elevation in front. That was the only plan we had seen. We asked him for plans, but couldn't get them, until finally it came to be just before the end of the six years, after the additional three years had elapsed, during which time we were obliged to act in order to get possession of the lot of land down there, and we thought we must approve some plan and start on something or we should lose our land.

Mr. Vinal then submitted plans for piling and foundations, on which \$60,000 was spent. This was money thrown away.

In March, 1887, the Legislature passed an act authorizing the library trustees to employ an architect and erect a central building. Twenty days later a contract was signed with the firm of McKim, Mead & White, architects.

In December of the same year Mr. McKim submitted an estimate of \$898,253, based upon the entire cost of the finished building in all its details.

In April, 1888, Mr. McKim submitted this estimate, \$1,165,955. In May, with only one dissenting vote, the Aldermen authorized the trustees to commence work on the new library, the cost of the building to be not more than \$1,160,000.

Now, by the report, the cost of the building for items omitted in the original estimate, and underestimates of items in the original estimate, will be brought up to \$2,343,000.

NEW HAVEN PUBLIC LIBRARY AND THE NEW HAVEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

THE action of the Board of Aldermen on April 10, in opposing the policy of the library directors as to securing the addition to their collections of those of the Historical Society, has awakened a good deal of criticism. The agreement is as follows:

1. The Historical Society will deposit its library and collections in the Public Library building, there to be kept so that both may be accessible to the public without charge.
2. The library directors shall not consent that any book in said society's library, or any article in its collections be taken out of the library building, except by written permission of the society.
3. Any of said books may be consulted in the library building by any person, under such regulations as the library directors may from time to time prescribe.
4. The society shall hang such pictures, prints, and other objects as the library directors may deem proper, on the walls of the hall in the second story of the rear part of the library building, except on the wall in the rear part of the platform; and the society shall have the use of said hall in which to hold the regular monthly meetings of the society, and other meetings at such times as the Mayor, or, in his absence, the President of the Board of Directors of the library may permit.
5. Such of the collections as are not placed in said hall shall be put and kept in one of the galleries of the main building, or in any other part of the building agreed upon by both parties, provided that the library directors shall have the right to require the society to change the location of any article of the collections.
6. The library directors shall admit the public to visit the collections of the society at least once a week, but under the care of a person to be furnished by the society.
7. The books of the society and all additions made by the society thereto shall be always kept separate and distinct from those of the public library, and its books and collections shall always be open, at reasonable hours, to the inspection of officers of the society.
8. No charge shall be made by the society to the library directors for the use of the books and collections, nor by the library directors to the society for the reception, custody, and care of the same, or for the use, lighting or heating of the rooms containing them.
9. The library directors shall be holden to no greater degree of care of said books and collections than they exercise in the care of the property of said library, and shall not be under any obligation to keep said property insured.
10. The society agrees to remove its books and collections at any time on the request of the library directors, provided said request is signified in writing not less than one year before the date of the proposed removal.
11. The society will not withdraw its books or collections from the library building without giv-

ing one year's previous notice to the library directors.

The directors thought they had done a good thing for the city when they negotiated this contract, which was under negotiation for some months. As it is now, the society allows no one but its members to use its library, and the public are only admitted to its collections by courtesy. Under the contract, the public will have the same right to consult these books that they have to the rest of the public library, and all will be under the charge of the same librarian, though the Historical Society will pay the salary of the curator, who has charge of showing its other collections.

An official connected with the town government said that the opposition to the union of the two libraries came mainly from one Alderman, whose ancestors were Tories in the Revolution, and fled the country. The Alderman was the first of his family who had ventured back from the British Possessions, and didn't care to have Benedict Arnold's sign and the other Revolutionary relics in the Historical Society's collection brought too much before the public eye, preferring to let bygones be bygones.

The Historical Society has about 3000 bound volumes and 4000 pamphlets. Its collections were kept for many years in what is now the city surveyor's office; then in the old State House; and recently in the insurance building, where it has three of the best rooms in the fourth story.

VALUE OF LIBRARIES.

An Editorial in the Jewish Spectator.

BY MISS JESSIE COHEN.

ONE of the greatest blessings of a community is a free public library where all can drink of the fountains of knowledge without distinction of race, creed, or nationality. They are the most effective means of spreading intelligence among the masses. They are the colleges and universities of thousands, who, owing to circumstances, were unable to attend school in their youth, or were obliged to leave just as their minds were beginning to realize the importance of an education which, thanks to these noble institutions, they were enabled to obtain and thus occupy honorable positions in society which they could not have done had they remained in the depths of ignorance. Who can count the number of persons who have laid the foundation of their success in life in these public libraries, where they could secure works on any subject without any outlay on their part. Public libraries promote not only the mental advancement of the people, but they place them on a higher social and moral scale. They become inspired with nobler and loftier sentiments, which must naturally be the result if they read the works of the greatest thinkers the world has produced. Public libraries counteract the evil influence of city life by creating thoughtful and reflective habits and implanting in the hearts of the people a love for their country and a desire to possess an accurate knowledge of her laws, so that they can work more conscientiously for her interests. Many persons have been

saved from committing crime by having free access to libraries where their leisure hours could be spent in communing with that which elevates instead of corrupting. Where free public libraries exist there is less demand for police stations and work-houses, as much of the wrong committed in the world is the result of ignorance. James Russell Lowell has truly said, the man who endows a public library erects a monument to himself that time cannot destroy, as knowledge is everlasting, and those possessing it are wealthy in the true sense of the word. The Jews can and should do much to aid the work of establishing these free public libraries that are such great benefactors to humanity by donating large sums to them, and seeing that they are supplied with works on Jewish history, philosophy, ethics, and literature. Such a movement would achieve better results in spreading the knowledge of Judaism than the establishment of an exclusively Jewish library, which would only be used by a few, while the promotion of free public libraries is of benefit to all. We must all work in harmony if we wish to plant the seeds of intelligence in our beloved country; then shall we succeed in forming a nation that will not crumble unto the dust when the storms of misfortune darken its pathway, but stand like the rock of Gibraltar amidst the raging tempest.

ACCESS TO SHELVES.

From the Report of the Minneapolis Free Public Library.

It might be well to note the extremely small loss of books under the very exceptionally free and liberal management. Probably a freer access to books has been permitted here than in any similar library, and yet the percentage of loss has been much less than that almost invariably experienced under the most stringent regulations. This result not only warrants the continuation of the same policy, but strongly corroborates the evidence from many other directions of the good character of the people of this city. It will also be a precedent that may ultimately tend to make libraries in other cities more accessible.

Of the use of the library upon the premises no exact statistics could be kept: (1) Several hundred persons pursuing special courses of reading, besides the many whose professional work involves special research, have been granted "shelf permits." By these they are given access to the book-rooms, and authorized to take down as many books as they please, without formality, and without supervision. (2) Any inquirer not served adequately through the usual channels, is taken to the shelves and allowed a similar privilege. (3) The medical reading-room and the patent-room are open, as of course, without restriction. (4) Nearly a thousand volumes of reference-books are shelved in the reference and reading rooms, to be used at will, without record. And, (5) All the current newspapers and periodicals are placed in open cases or on tables, in the reading-rooms, where they may be handled freely without the intervention of an attendant,

In respect to the use in all these departments, therefore, we have thought better to waive the statistics altogether, than to subordinate to a mere statistic the convenience of the public. No record has been kept, even of the number of readers. But there are few hours of the day when less than 50 persons at a time are engaged in consulting one or other of the departments; and in the afternoons, the number rarely falls below 150 at a time.

No other large library of our type has ventured equally far in freedom of access. Our experience is therefore watched with interest. So far, it may be summed up as follows: The public have been granted freedom from restriction as detailed above; and in addition on Sundays and holidays, several hundred volumes of miscellaneous literature have been placed in open cases in the reading-rooms. These have been used freely and largely. Not a single volume has ever been missing from these cases at the close of the day. Only 3 volumes have been missed from the reference shelves. Some 20 odd numbers of periodicals were taken away during the first six months; but these were numbers of but some three or four magazines, and were no doubt taken by a single depredator. The total *ascertained* loss, therefore, from the freedom of our system, amounts to 3 books and 20 magazines, whose cost to replace has not exceeded \$20.

It should be added, however, that the count recently taken was taken without interrupting the circulation of books, and while over 5000 volumes were in the hands of borrowers. Its results are by no means conclusive, nor is the experience of one year conclusive. We must be prepared to suffer, at times, severe and exasperating loss from theft. But I believe that the loss will be due to the systematic rascality of one or two individuals; not to any lax morality on the part of the general community of readers. The Minneapolis public has thus far, in relation to the library, adapted its conduct to the French adage, which is posted in the public gardens of Paris, that "what belongs to the public the public is bound to protect."

LIBRARIES AND EDUCATION IN LIVERPOOL.

From the Report of the Liverpool Free Public Library.

OBJECTIONS to the reference library, "because it is largely used by the educated and those who can afford to purchase their own books," are answered by saying that "it furnishes students with books of reference which they cannot obtain in any other way, and it is very gratifying to note how largely our Reference Library is availed of by the clergy, teachers, students, journalists and others, whose object is to weave the materials they thus collect into a form which will instruct and entertain the people of the city, and thus, directly or indirectly, every citizen can derive benefit from them.

"We may also venture to hope that the existence of our library will do something towards promoting the pursuit and love of literature in our midst, and the formation of a literary society;

that Liverpool may some day be as eminent in literature and in the fine arts as she is in commerce may be an extravagant expectation, but there can be no reason why she should not take a prominent position; and certainly it is our duty, while following the engrossing pursuit of commerce, not to neglect the higher claims of culture and education.

"We cannot forget that some of the most splendid works of literary genius, and the most admirable discoveries of scientific investigation, have been produced by the leisure studies of men engaged in commercial pursuits; it is sufficient to mention such names as Priestley, Franklin, Ricardo, Grote, Mill, Trollope, and in Liverpool we have the example of William Roscoe.

"We also observe a disposition to underestimate the usefulness of our lending libraries and reading-rooms, because the popular demand is for works of fiction, periodicals, and newspapers. Very little consideration will show that this demand is a natural one and its supply a necessity forced upon us by the advance in the general standard of education.

"Probably one of the most striking facts of our epoch has been the remarkable diminution in crime and pauperism, corresponding with the march of education. An eminent man of science lately affirmed that education, upon which the country now spends annually ten millions sterling, costs the nation practically nothing, as since the passing of the Education Act, the whole sum and more is annually saved in our expenditure upon criminals and paupers.

"But while education has thus happily curtailed and controlled man's propensity for evil, in the words of the Latin poet '*Emollit mores nec sinit esse ferus*'—it civilizes the conduct of men, and suffers them not to remain barbarous; it has also set up and created an intellectual appetite which must be satisfied, or else the intellect loses its power of application, and also loses its restraining and controlling influence.

"When, therefore, this country happily adopted a scheme of National Elementary Education it committed itself, and equally every municipality, to the supply of adequate means by which the people can make use of their intellectual faculties, and can continue the education begun in the school, or make use of it for the purpose of recreation. Thus free libraries, museums, and art galleries have ceased to be merely the resorts of the cultured, but have become the gathering places of the people. They are no longer merely the repositories of books of standard authors and articles of virtue and high art; they must also satisfy our new social conditions and minister to the intellectual entertainment of the masses.

"Viewed in this light the demand for works of fiction, magazines, and newspapers is not surprising, and it is one which ought to and must be met, for while this light literature satisfies the craving of the intellect for occupation, it is in itself a valuable means of education, and one which, no doubt, often serves as a stimulus and incentive to reading of a more serious character."

THE MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC LIBRARY.

THE erection of the Public Library building was begun in the summer of 1886, but it was not finally completed until the fall of 1889. The opening took place on Monday, December 16. There were no formal exercises. The entire building, with the collections of literature, science and art, and with the added cheerful beauty of music and flowering plants, was thrown open, and the public invited to inspect and enjoy it. The enthusiastic response showed the interest that the undertaking has awakened, from 2 until 10 o'clock thousands thronging the institution.

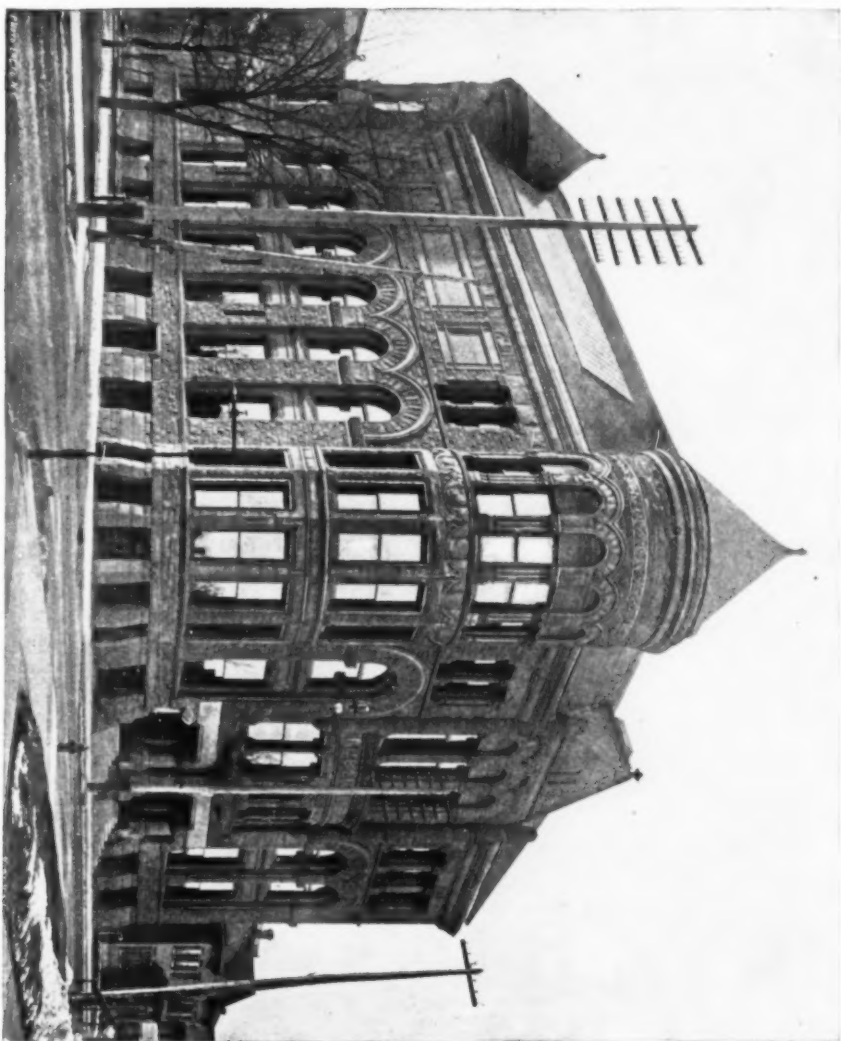
The building stands on the corner of Hennepin Avenue and Tenth Street—one of the broadest avenues and one of the widest streets in the city. The library is a quadrangle, with an open court some 60 feet square in the centre. The full depth of the lot being 190 feet and its frontage 132 feet. As yet but two sides have been constructed, one stretching back 150 feet on Tenth Street, the other extending 116 feet along the avenue. The building at present thus forms an "L," the shorter arm (on Hennepin Avenue) having a depth of 70 feet, and the longer a depth to the court of 32 feet. The exterior is of Lake Superior brown sandstone, and the interior court walls are of red brick. The only exceptions to the exclusive use of these two materials are the columns of polished granite flanking the main entrance, and the heavy granite lintels above them.

Principal entrance to the building is from Hennepin Avenue. It is a double one, and of liberal proportions.

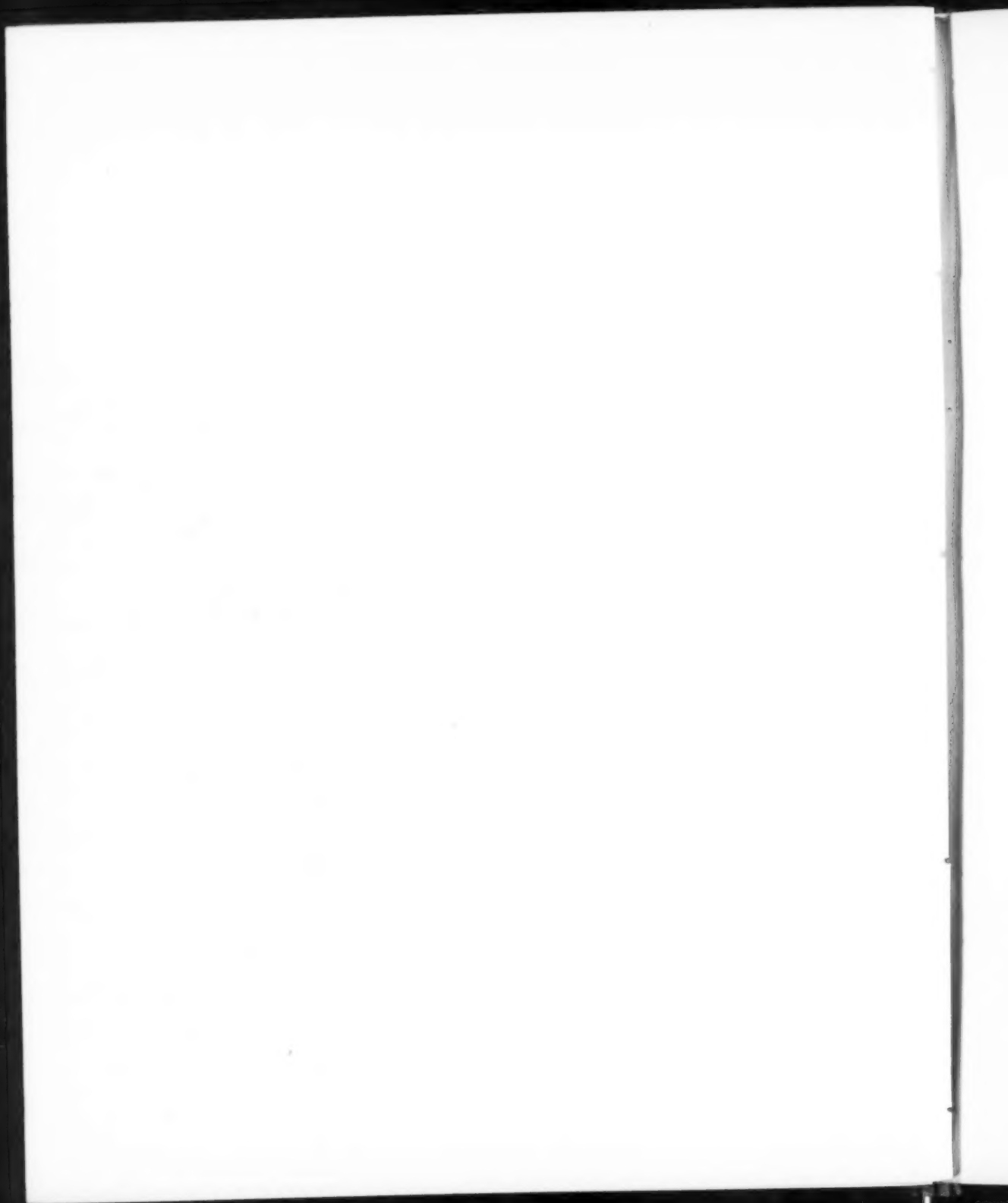
Above this is an oriel, or bay window, extending the height of one story, in the centre of which is a niche of arched finish, where stands the heroic female figure of "Literature," which is cast in bronze. Beginning at this point, sandstone turrets on either side continue to the height of the building, enclosing three arched windows, which are capped by a gable finish.

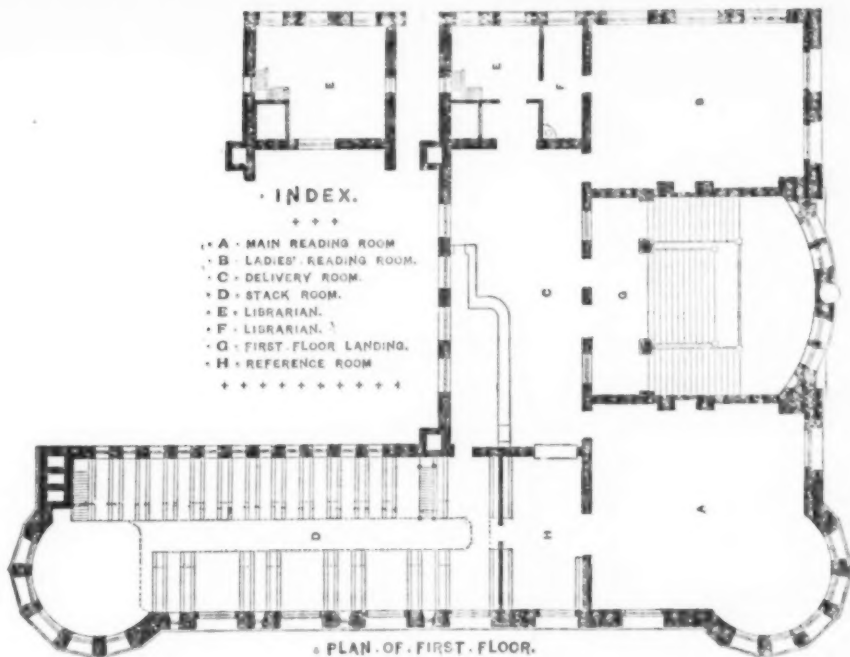
There are additional entrances to the building on Tenth Street and on Hennepin Avenue, consequently the visitor may enter by the side door on Tenth Street, and find the newspaper reading-room at his left, or continuing through the long corridor will reach the elevator. The main entrance leads through solid mahogany doors into the main staircase hall. This, a stately feature of the building, is thirty-four feet square, stretching without interruption from the entrance landing to the roof ceiling.

Three tiers of arches of red pressed brick, springing from columns of white limestone, support the inside landings in as many galleries. The staircase is of iron, the treads of slate, and the rail is of polished steel. The exposed iron supports are of bronze finish. The landing, corresponding to the oriel window, as seen in the elevation, stretching the full width of the hall, has a width of twelve feet. Seven long windows, four on this landing and three on the others, furnish abundance of light to the hall, which will be softened and enriched, in the near future, by stained glass. The walls of this hall



THE MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC LIBRARY.





or entrance vestibule are, like the arches, of red pressed brick, and all the hardwood is of mahogany.

A visitor coming in by the main entrance may turn to the left and descend to the reading-rooms in the basement, or ground floor, or, ascending the dozen broad steps in front of him, pass directly into the delivery-room. If simply in quest of a book for home use, he need go no further. He may, however, turn to the left into the main reading-room, or reference-room, or to the right into the ladies' reading-room, or the librarians' office.

The hardwood finish, uniformly treated in oil and varnish, shows the natural grain of the wood to the best advantage. The floors of the rooms, excepting the two that are carpeted with moquette, are covered with brown linoleum, or cork matting, which largely dispenses with the noise so noticeable when walking upon marble or wood floors. The wood-work in nearly every room in the building is from special designs, and no two rooms are finished alike. The ceiling being high, 18 feet on main floor, gave the artist a most excellent opportunity to display his skill, and that such an opportunity was taken advantage of in this instance no one will question. Besides the staircase hall, the main reading-room, the ladies' reading-room, the reference and director's rooms are all finished in mahogany; the wainscoting of which in the two reading-rooms rises to the height of 8 feet and mantels of the same to the

height of about 15 feet. The rest of the building is finished in quartered oak. In the staircase hall, red pressed bricks have been used for the walls, the trimmings being of white limestone. In the remainder of the building the walls are rough plastered and tinted. The floors are supported by iron I beams and the structure is fireproof throughout.

Reading-rooms, delivery-rooms, director's rooms, meeting-rooms, and art school are all on the Hennepin Avenue side, the Tenth Street wing, after it leaves the main body of the building, being given up to stack (book) rooms on the main floor and art gallery on the third (top) floor. In this wing a room of nearly identical dimensions — 27 x 96 feet — is repeated from the basement to the top floor.

The idea has been to differentiate rather than to mass the reading space. Besides the main room, there is a lower "corridor," 56 x 24 feet, used as a reading-room for young people (a use in no way interfering with its original purpose, is it is not a part of the main entrance hall, and an no sense an avenue to the rest of the library); the reference-room adjoining, and in fact a part of the main reading-room, the patent-room (for reports and specifications), the medical reading-room at the lower end of the basement stack room; and the "study" in the corresponding bay of the main stack-room, each of the two latter being about twenty-two feet in diameter. And in addition to all these, there are two book-

rooms, containing sixteen alcoves, 8 x 10 feet, respectively, each with a window crossing its entire width; and twenty-two alcoves nearly three feet wide and ten feet long, also separately windowed. The large alcoves have desks across under the windows, the smaller alcoves have drop tables.

The aggregate accommodation for readers is thus far beyond what appears from any single standpoint; the four larger rooms having a floor area of 5744 square feet (accommodation for nearly 400 readers), and the stack-rooms adding to this accommodation for perhaps 100 more; while the reading space has been so distributed as to convenience each particular class of readers, from the casual scanner of newspapers to the special student. The completion of the quadrangle will set free the basement corner, now used as a work-room, for an additional reading-room if necessary. This is the same size as the ladies' reading-room above, 30 x 40 feet. The object has been, therefore, not mere economy of storage space, but light, airiness, cheerfulness, accessibility, and convenience to the special investigator.

Directly back of the staircase hall is one long room—56 x 24 feet; and flanking the hall there is a room on each side nearly alike in size. This arrangement, starting at the basement, is repeated on each floor. A single floor plan, therefore, suffices to show the whole. In the basement, the corner room—40 x 40 feet—is the newspaper and periodical reading-room; on the main floor, it is the main reading-room; on the second floor, the director's room; on the top floor, the art school. The other corner (alley side), flanking the side of the staircase hall, is a room 30 x 40 feet, used in the basement as a work-room for the library, on the main floor as a ladies' reading-room, on the second floor as a meeting-room for literary societies, and on the top floor as a modelling-room for the art school. The long room facing the entrance in the basement is used as a reading-room for juveniles; on the main floor as the delivery-room; on the second floor it is at present given up to casts from the antique; and on the top floor to a loan collection of ceramics and curios. A series of smaller rooms—20 x 24 feet—at the end of this series, provide toilet-rooms, librarian's office and elevator landing. The patent-room is at the upper end of the basement book-room, and the reference-room at the upper end of the main book-room.

Delivery-room is on the main floor, twenty-four feet in width and fifty-six feet in length, flooded with light from the rear and front as well, being separated from the staircase hall only by plate glass transom lights and door panels. The delivery counter runs two-thirds of the way down the room, ending in a set of shelves, on which the new books may be exposed behind glass with their titles towards the public. The stack (book) rooms are reached by a six-foot doorway at the open end of the counter to the east. There are two of these, each of which is 27 x 100 feet in dimensions, and contains the material most used for students' reference. The position of the counter, or issue desk, is such that a comprehensive view of the principal entrance and the several reading-rooms adjoining on the

main floor, or first floor, can be obtained by the attendant in charge.

The basement story—more properly the ground floor—is in height 12 feet; the main floor is 18 feet and the other two floors 16 feet (except that the art gallery is of much greater height). In the librarian's office a mezzanine story, dividing the 18 feet, gives two rooms, each about 8 feet 6 inches in height.

The stack-rooms are excellently equipped. The stacks run out between the windows at right angles to either side a distance of 10 feet, leaving a space of six feet for a centre aisle. The lower room contains a single tier of these shelves 10 feet in height; the upper room, being 18 feet in height, admits of two tiers, each 7½ feet high, thus leaving a clear space of 3 feet above.

The book stacks are constructed of hollow gas pipe 1½ inches in diameter, on which are sliding cast-iron bearings supporting the shelves and consequently readily adjustable at any required height by means of set screws. The shelves are of polished cherry; each stack, except those at the end against the wall, is double-faced, its depth to a height of three feet from the floor is 32 inches, and above the fourth shelf the depth is 16 inches. There is thus along the face of every stack at a height of three feet a projection, or ledge, 8 inches in width, upon which to rest books for examination. The newspaper stacks are of similar design but of far greater depth, and in place of shelves have a series of cherry rollers on which the volumes slide in upon their sides.

There are in the present book-rooms 10,582 running feet of shelving, independent of the newspaper stacks. The capacity of these shelves is about 105,000 volumes. The completion of the remaining wings of the building will quadruple the capacity of the two floors now used for the library proper. The entire building, however, may at any time be devoted to library uses solely, in which event a storage capacity will be available for over a million volumes.

The art gallery is situated over the museum, and is 27 x 100 feet, agreeably broken at the end by the bay-window. It is lighted by a skylight, and there is exhibited a valuable nucleus in 6 oil paintings presented to the Library Board by Mr. J. J. Hill, of St. Paul; including in this number, the *Tel el-Kebir* by Ade Neuville, and pieces by Wagner, Courtois, Jacomin, Pasini, and Guillon. Besides these, it contains a loan collection of one hundred others, which have been on exhibition since the opening. In the room adjoining the gallery is a collection of ceramics and bric-à-brac, which is also loaned.

The art school of the Minneapolis Society of Fine Arts occupies, at the pleasure of the Library Board, the two corner rooms.

The museum is now nearly filled by the natural history collection of the Minnesota Academy of Natural Sciences, exhibited in solid oak cases. The Academy is an active organization, holding monthly meetings, and publishing from time to time bulletins embodying the reports of its various sections. It is admitted to occupation of the necessary space in the building by the pleasure of the Library Board.

The long room over the delivery-room is filled

with a collection of casts from the antique, loaned by the Minneapolis Exposition.

The room on this floor over the ladies' reading-room is designed as a meeting-room for literary, scientific, and other societies existing for purposes of discussion, who are admitted to its use free of all charge.

The first extension of the building will probably be a book-room, extending from the rear of the delivery-room into what will form a central court. It will probably take in only the central twenty-five feet of the delivery-room. It will not rise above the main floor, and may be lighted from above. It may be connected by passageways with the three other sides of the quadrangle. Upon its completion, the issue windows may be thrown back into the extension, leaving clear the space now occupied by the delivery counter. Books for the young may then be issued through corresponding windows in the basement. The completion of the two remaining wings of the quadrangle proper will, it is hoped, provide, besides further reading-rooms, museum-rooms and galleries, a lecture-room, to seat 600 persons, and a sculpture gallery. These various extensions may be made without altering the organic design of the building, and being in the rear can be made at comparatively small expense. Now that the institution is established upon a substantial foundation, its further extension will be an easy matter, and all future improvements will be carried out in the most substantial and highly creditable manner.

DISCRETIONARY CIRCULATION.

From the Philadelphia Press.

THE LIBRARY JOURNAL for March, with much other admirable advice addressed to the profession, urges on librarians greater freedom in loaning books to students at a distance. It mentions Harvard University, Yale University, the Boston Athenæum, the American Antiquarian Society, and the New Jersey Historical Society. The first of these is exceptionally liberal in its treatment of investigators, and there are many who have at one time or another been indebted to its liberal loans for long periods. The Surgeon-General's Library of Washington, which is not mentioned by the LIBRARY JOURNAL, has a most valuable system for loaning books at a distance, indispensable to the medical investigator. It has, thanks to Dr. Billings, what all libraries should have, a system by which the distant applicant can be identified and vouched for. The American Library Association could well begin a system of mutual loans by which any library entering the arrangement would loan through any library in the arrangement to any properly endorsed applicant. All but a minute percentage of investigators are in communication with some library, and, to a very great extent, this would place the special treasures of all—barring recognized incunabula—at the disposal of each. Such a system has worked without loss in the Library of the Surgeon-General at Washington and it is greatly needed for the entire country.

IOWA STATE LIBRARY CIRCULAR.

THE State Librarian has issued the following questionnaire to be filled up by city and town libraries of 300 vols. and upward:

1. Place?
2. Name of library?
3. When founded?
4. Class?
5. Free or subscription?
6. Number of volumes?
7. Number of volumes added during the past year?
8. Number of volumes loaned during the past year?
9. Days and hours open each week?
10. Average number of visitors to reading-room per day?
11. How catalogued?
12. How classified?
13. Does the library own its building; if so, cost and capacity?
14. Yearly expenditures for books and binding?
15. Yearly expenditures for periodicals and papers?
16. Yearly expenditures for incidentals?
17. Salary of librarian?
18. Number of assistants and salary of each?
19. Total yearly expenditures?
20. Yearly income from public funds?
21. Yearly income from other sources?
22. Names of committee or trustees?
23. Name of librarian?

American Library Association.

CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE.

ITINERARY.

Thursday, Oct. 1, 1st day.—Leave Boston, Fitchburg R. R. station, Causeway St., 9 A.M. On arrival at the station members of the party should check their baggage to San Francisco, but it will be accessible in the baggage car whenever desired on the outward and return trips. Leave Ayer Junction 9.50 A.M., Fitchburg 10.20 A.M., Greenfield 11.45 A.M., North Adams 1.15 P.M., Mechanicville 2.50 P.M., Rotterdam Junction 3.30 P.M., Utica 5.45 P.M., Syracuse 7.00 P.M., Rochester 9.25 P.M., Buffalo 11.40 P.M.

Note.—The New York passengers will leave at 10.15 A.M., Albany 1.35 P.M.; arrive at Rotterdam Junction 3.45 P.M., connecting with the special train at this point.

Friday, Oct. 2, 2d day.—Arrive at Sarnia 7.15 A.M., crossing the River St. Clair; leave Port Huron 7.00 A.M., Lansing 10.30 A.M., Battle Creek 12.05 P.M., Valparizo 4.00 P.M., arrive at Chicago 7.00 P.M., leave at 8.00 P.M. via the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe R. R.

Saturday, Oct. 3, 3d day.—Arrive at Kansas City 2.00 P.M.; leave at 6.00 P.M.

Sunday, Oct. 4, 4th day.—Arrive at Dodge City 7.00 A.M.; leave at 6.00 P.M.

Monday, Oct. 5, 5th day.—Arrive at Denver 8.00 A.M.; leave Denver 10.00 P.M.

Tuesday, Oct. 6, 6th day.—Arrive at Manitou Springs 4.00 A.M.; leave at 4.00 P.M.

Wednesday, Oct. 7, 7th day.—Arrive at Leadville 4.00 A.M.; leave at 6.00 A.M.; arrive Glenwood Springs 12.00 noon; leave at 5.00 P.M.

Thursday, Oct. 8, 8th day.—Passing through Castle Gate by daylight. Arrive at Salt Lake City 9.00 A.M.; leave at 8.00 P.M.; Ogden 10.00 P.M.

Friday, Oct. 9, 9th day.—En route through Nevada.

Saturday, Oct. 10, 10th day.—Arrive at Blue Cañon 6.00 A.M.; Sacramento 12.00 noon; leave at 5.00 P.M.; arrive at Oakland 10.00 P.M., remaining in the sleeping-cars until morning. From the morning of Sunday, October 11, until departure on Monday, October 19, passengers will provide their own entertainment and hotel accommodation. Railroad tickets furnished for the side trips to San Jose, Monterey, Menlow Park, San Rafael and return.

Monday, Oct. 19, 19th day.—Leave San Francisco 9.30 P.M.; Oakland 10.00 P.M.; resuming the Pullman sleepers.

Tuesday, Oct. 20, 20th day.—Arrive at Fresno 7.00 A.M.; breakfast at the Hughes' Hotel; leave at 10.00 A.M.; arrive at Bakersfield at 2.00 P.M.; dinner at the depot dining-rooms. Cross the "Loops" and Tehachapi Pass by daylight; arrive at Mojave 8.00 P.M.; supper at the depot dining-rooms.

Wednesday, Oct. 21, 21st day.—Arrive at Santa Barbara 6.00 A.M.; transfer to the Arlington Hotel and the San Marcos Hotel.

Thursday, Oct. 22, 22d day.—Leave the hotels at 7.30 A.M. by transfer; resume the sleeping-cars and leave at 8.00 A.M.; arrive at Los Angeles 1.00 P.M.; transfer to the Westminster and Hollenbeck Hotels.

Friday, Oct. 23, 23d day.—In Los Angeles. *Saturday, Oct. 24, 24th day.*—In Los Angeles. Railroad tickets furnished for the side trips to Pasadena and Redondo Beach. These trips can be taken at any time during the stay in Los Angeles. Retire to the sleeping-cars, and leave at 12.00 midnight.

Sunday, Oct. 25, 25th day.—Arrive at San Diego 7.00 A.M.; transfer by the motor railway to the Hotel del Coronado.

Monday, Oct. 26, 26th day.—In San Diego.

Tuesday, Oct. 27, 27th day.—Leave Hotel del Coronado 7.30 A.M. by motor road. Resume the Pullman drawing-room sleeping cars and leave San Diego at 8.00 A.M.; arrive at Riverside 1.00 P.M.; commencing at this point meals will be taken in the dining-car. Leave at 10.00 P.M.

Wednesday, Oct. 28, 28th day.—Arrive at Redlands 4.00 A.M.; leave at 1.00 P.M.; arrive at San Bernardino 1.30 P.M.; leave San Bernardino 3.00 P.M.

Thursday, Oct. 29, 29th day.—On the line of the Atlantic and Pacific Railway.

Friday, Oct. 30, 30th day.—Arrive at Santa Fé 8.00 A.M.; leave at 1.00 P.M.; arrive at Las Vegas Hot Springs 6.00 P.M.; leave at 10.00 P.M.

Saturday, Oct. 31, 31st day.—Arrive at Raton 6.00 A.M.

Sunday, Nov. 1, 32d day.—Arrive at Kansas City 8.00 A.M.; leave at 6.30 P.M.

Monday, Nov. 2, 33d day.—Arrive at Chicago 1.00 P.M.; leave at 8.15 P.M.

Tuesday, Nov. 3, 34th day.—Arrive at Toronto 1.30 P.M.; leave Toronto 8.30 P.M.

Wednesday, Nov. 4, 35th day.—Arrive in Montreal 8.30 A.M.; leave at 6.00 P.M.

Thursday, Nov. 5, 36th day.—Arrive in Boston, Boston and Lowell depot, 8.30 A.M.

Price \$265, including transportation round trip, side trips to San José, Monterey, San Rafael, Santa Barbara, Pasadena, Redondo Beach, San Diego, Redlands, Santa Fé and Las Vegas Hot Springs, meals in the dining-car Boston to Oakland, and Riverside to Boston, at the depot dining-rooms between San Francisco and Santa Barbara, hotels and transfers at Santa Barbara, Los Angeles and San Diego.

Vestibuled train of Pullman palace cars with dining-car and composite-car, the latter containing a library, barber-shop, writing-room, bath-room, smoking-room, etc.

To the Members of the A. L. A.:

THE returns so far received indicate an unexpectedly large attendance for the California meeting. The committee held a meeting in Boston, and the dozen officers present gave the afternoon to discussing general plans, reaching the following conclusions:

1. As the attendance will be so largely from the Pacific Coast, and by those who have not attended previous meetings and heard the discussions, the program will be made chiefly with regard to its usefulness to those who will attend this year for the first time. Papers and discussions will aim rather to sum up the past and give a complete statement of the best thought on each subject up to date, instead of propounding new theories or making labored arguments on mooted questions. Beside the obvious fairness of adapting the program to the majority of those present, it seems desirable in beginning our second 15 years that we should in this way summarize results to date for our own convenience and profit. We shall thus get the comparative view of each essayist. The reporter will aim to give, not his personal opinions, or new ideas, but rather a judicial statement of existing facts and of the recognized trend of the best administered libraries.

2. No time will be taken from the daily exercises for reading statistics, historical matter, etc., which will serve every useful purpose if printed in the proceedings. We shall thus have more time for comparison of views, such as is possible only in face to face conferences.

3. There will be eight sessions from Tuesday to Friday, or an average of two per day. Some days may have three and others one, according to local requirements; but the plan is to allow on an average a third of the time for the informal conferences which all agree are so practically valuable a feature of our meetings.

4. It seems wiser where a member has given unusual attention to an annual report and become thoroughly interested in the subject, to continue him for a series of years rather than appoint a new reporter for each session. The first year's work shows how the second could be done much better, and we shall doubtless get

more compact and better reports by thus utilizing experience. After reporting for two or three years one becomes skilful in noting just the points the Association will be glad to hear.

The reporters for 1891 were appointed as follows:

Aids and guides, W: C. Lane, Harvard University; Catalogues and classification, Horace Kephart, St. Louis Mercantile; Charging systems, Mary S. Cutler; Library buildings, C: C. Soule, Trustee Brookline Public; Gifts and bequests, Miss C. M. Hewins, Hartford; Legislation, Thorvald Solberg; Binding and binderies in libraries, D. V. Johnston.

The committee request that any suggestion as to program or other features of the San Francisco meeting, or other work of the A. L. A. for 1891, be sent promptly to the President, in order that they may be utilized for the first edition of the program about to be printed.

5. The following topics have been already selected for the program:

A library poem, John Vance Cheney; Elementary library architecture, C: C. Soule; Travelling and house libraries, John M. Glenn; Subject-cataloguing, a symposium on the whole question; Charging systems, with working models of several of the most successful, Mary S. Cutler; Hours, vacations, and salaries in a hundred representative libraries.

MELVIL DEWEY.

State Library Associations.

CONNECTICUT LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE first annual meeting was held in Hartford, May 30, in the Watkinson Library in the Athenæum building. About 30 members were present from all over the State.

The opening address was made by the President, Professor Addison Van Name, librarian of the Yale University Library. He said:

"I do not intend to set for my successors the example of a formal address. . . . Though not yet half a century old the free library is reckoned among the chief educational forces of the day. In some towns the social library will still have a place; but in most towns it is destined to be absorbed by the public free library. . . .

"In 1869, Connecticut adopted a law which Massachusetts had already discarded. Three-fourths of the libraries in this State are supported by private means. New Hampshire and Rhode Island are ahead of us in this matter, Vermont abreast of us, and only Maine below us. The law cannot do it all; education must do the rest. But the movement is cumulative and will gather force as it advances, every library tending to produce many others. Those who have money to give are learning that money cannot be better bestowed. Five of our 12 cities in Connecticut and 19 out of our 22 boroughs are without libraries, and this is certainly inexcusable." The importance of libraries in manufacturing towns where many people of foreign birth are employed was pointed out, as well as their value in country towns to help hold the young men who are drifting to the large cities.

Judge Nathaniel Shipman welcomed the Association to Hartford in the most cordial way imaginable.

While admitting that Connecticut was backward in the matter of libraries supported by town aid, he thought the existence of this convention was a marked fact in the life of our little commonwealth. It showed, for one thing, that the belief in education, so marked 250 years ago, was alive. It also showed that wealth had come in Connecticut and was in the hands of generous givers. A sterile soil has hitherto compelled frugality and economy in Connecticut, but now wealth has come, and nowhere has it been given more freely or liberally than in this State. The new libraries springing up through the private benevolence attest this.

After Professor Hart of Trinity, had invited the members of the Association to visit the College library and Miss Hewins had read the report of the meeting in February, when the Association was organized, the Hon. C: D. Hine, Secretary of the State Board of Education, read a paper on "School libraries." He opened by defining the function of the school libraries, which are not of course opened to the general public; yet they serve to introduce the young to the advantage and pleasures of reading. Many go no further than the grade schools; hence their importance. The school libraries of Connecticut owe much to Horace Mann and Dr. H: Barnard. Secretary Hine described the system of State support and other provisions of the law, and gave statistics to show the results. In 1866 \$635 was expended for school libraries and \$590 drawn from the State; in 1890 \$16,000 was expended for the same purpose and \$4400 drawn from the State. There are 364 libraries in the State, but it should be remembered that all of the school libraries in New Haven, for instance, are called one library. In all there are over 61,000 volumes. For many years much of the money appropriated was wasted. First maps were brought, mostly poor ones; then came the apparatus period, followed by the book period which began with the dictionary, advanced to books of reference, and now embraces all of these, together with books for general reading. Some of the book committees, he said, were not altogether such as would be commissioned to select books for the Hartford Library. In one case the money for books was devoted to a flag-pole for the school-house; another for lunch for 120 persons, and yet another for shingling an outhouse! One district spent nearly \$700 for useless charts, which sum might just as well have gone into good books.

Mr. Hine exhibited some absurd specimens of books obtained at the Public Library: "Boy speculator," "Deadwood Dick in Chicago," "McGinty's twins," "Butterfly Billy's man hunt," "Bowery Tom," "Jenny the barmaid," "Dreaded Dick's dust," and "The prairie bird."

Mr. Hine then said that when children are 6 or 7 years old they can be taught to read intelligently from school libraries, and can take in a large amount of useful knowledge. Mr. Hine exhibited one or two books for children, such as Andrew Lang's "Jack the Giant Killer," and contrasted it with one which ran like this: "Go up. We do go up. We go up on it. Is he to go up on it? He is to go up if we do. No; he

is to do as we do. If it be so, he is to go on. Is he to go up on it so? As we go on, he is to go up. We do go up, up, up!"

"There are no ideas in such a book," added Mr. Hine, "and this is based on the supposition that a child has no ideas. But fairy stories do appeal to children of 5, 6 and 7 years, and if they don't get ideas in this way they will in another." He gave instances where boys, and girls too, of 14 and 15 had never read a book.

Mr. Hine thought it would be a good thing if books could be bought by the State, in addition to those purchased by the towns, to send out as travelling libraries. This was disapproved years ago, but within a few days the State Board has decided upon a plan by which this can be done. Such books as have been cited should be burned in the Public Square and good books substituted. Mr. Hine suggested that teachers be required to pass an examination in literature. Now all candidates for State certificates must pass such an examination in certain standard works. He also believed that certain books, such as those of Andrew Lang, should be placed in public libraries so that they can be used by children.

Superintendent Twitchell, of the Arsenal School, said that Miss Hewins had already put that scheme into effect here.

Discussion followed, in which a number took part. Dr. Barnard told of an earlier school library law under which some twenty libraries were put into Connecticut. Professor Graves, of the South School, said that perhaps it would be only fair to the coming free library to say that the library scheme includes a plan of sending out proper juvenile books to the schools. Others from Bridgeport, New Haven and Springfield state that the same plan is in operation in those cities.

Miss Hewins said that the city schools have drawn some 1000 books to be used in connection with subjects being studied in the class-room.

After the morning session was over, the members of the Association inspected the plans of Hartford's free library and of library buildings in Ansonia, Granby, and other places. The answers to questions sent by Miss Hewins as to libraries in the State are imperfect, and the work will have to be further carried out. There are about 125 libraries in the State containing 1000 volumes or more.

At the beginning of the afternoon session Mrs. Martha Todd Hill, of Stonington, gave an entertaining and suggestive account of the growth of the Stonington Free Library. There had been for many years a Ladies' Book Club in the town, but no public library. The present one was started by a suggestion that funds should be raised on the A B C D plan. The gift of a dime began the contributions, and although the plan was never carried out to its fullest extent, many persons asked two or three others to give ten cents. As soon as these gifts amounted to four or five dollars a few interesting and popular books were bought and displayed. The usual objections to a free library were made, that the community was not a reading one, that Tom, Dick, and Harry would use the books, that valuable illustrated ones would be injured, but the committee kept at work raising money by enter-

tainments and a loan exhibition. Last year the library circulated 12,000 volumes, nearly half as much as the Hartford Library two or three years ago. It has 3350 volumes and occupies a house to itself.

Mrs. Agnes Hills, librarian of the Bridgeport Public Library, read a paper on the "Use of the Card Catalogue in Small Libraries," recommending it as the cheapest and most practical kind. She recommended the dictionary catalogue rather than that divided into authors and subjects, and the simplest, commonest words for subject heads — birds rather than ornithology, and insects in preference to entomology.

After a discussion, in which Dr. Henry Barnard and others joined, the meeting passed a vote of thanks to the Watkinson Library and adjourned, with the understanding that the Executive Committee should appoint the time and place of the next meeting. It will probably be in October.

M. MEDICOTT.

New York Library Club.

THE New York Library Club held its last meeting for the season at Columbia College, May 14. About 80 members were present. President Baker expressed his pleasure in welcoming the Club again to its time-honored meeting-place; that while the Club had doubtless been the gainer by enjoying during the past season the hospitalities of different libraries, that it was very pleasant to the staff of Columbia College Library to have its turn come around once in awhile; he announced that President Low would address the Club later in the afternoon.

The Executive Committee recommended the following persons for election to membership: Miss Sophia L. Bacon, of Pratt Institute; Miss Jennie Y. Middleton, of the Newark Public Library; Mr. C. E. Speirs, 23 Murray St.; Mr. H. E. Davidson, Secretary of the Library Bureau, 277 Stewart Building, Broadway, and Mr. William O. McDowell, Secretary of the Pan-Republic League, Newark, N. J.

They were elected.

President Baker introduced to the Club as one deeply interested in the welfare and growth of libraries, one who had done everything to advance the interests of the library, the President of Columbia College.

President Low. — Ladies and Gentlemen, I trust Mr. Baker has spoken to you the words of truth and soberness. It is very pleasant to cultivate the feeling of fellowship with those who are engaged in the same work; to come together to exchange thoughts in regard to that work. You represent very different types of libraries; there is that of the specialist, which may be likened to the locomotive head-light. It is to illuminate a straight track which lies before it. Outside of that it might as well not be lit. And there is the public library, which I would compare to the Western Union Telegraph — it scatters its messages in every direction, across the channel, everywhere, of every character — messages of current life, and now and then one that the world never forgets. The university library I look upon as

the lever of the whole institution. I would rather go without some of the buildings if need be than do without the library. The chemist might as well go without his laboratory. Our conception of the scope of Columbia College Library is that it shall be a library for students. It does not aim to entertain, but would fill the needs of men reading seriously, especially such as are engaged in research. If this is the function of a library, it is hard to overestimate the importance of its work in all the departments of its administration. I do not know whether Mr. Baker agrees with me, but I would rather have a library of 10,000 volumes well and thoroughly indexed than one of 100,000 volumes that was not. A student would be as badly served in such a case as a man who should go to the Post-Office for a letter and should find the mail heaped about on the floors. It ought to be easy for the student to find what he wants. Perhaps by the development of what I hear called "the modern library idea," the book will finally look up the student, as the letter looks up its owner.

I know that the great workman is superior to his tools. Genius can accomplish without tools. You know the story of Aladdin and the unfinished window on which the most skillful workmen wrought for many years, but all their toil could not equal the magic work which the Genius of the Lamp wrought in a single night. It is a comfort to those of us who do not belong to the class of geniuses, that by fidelity and conscientious endeavor, we can accomplish much; that there is much work to be done other than that of the geniuses, that to whatever part is assigned us it is possible to bring the inspiration of a great thought, of a great purpose; that upon that fidelity depends much. Great things do depend on little things. A man overcharged with great affairs is more apt to fail by lack of attention to the little things. I wish you success in your useful and valuable work. It is a pleasure to have you meet at Columbia College, and I bid you very heartily welcome.

President Low was warmly applauded.

The election of officers for the season of 1891-92 resulted in the unanimous choice of the candidates named by the Nominating Committee: President, Mr. Frank P. Hill; Vice-Presidents, Miss Mary W. Plummer and Mr. R. B. Poole; Secretary, Miss Mary I. Crandall; Treasurer, Mr. Silas H. Berry.

The President.—The Executive Committee has not been overburdened by a multiplicity of topics suggested by members of the Club. We have accordingly decided that a discussion of reference work might be interesting and suggestive.

Miss Mosman read her paper on the methods of the reference department of the Pratt Institute Library; Mr. Child read his paper on the reference work of a college library; the Secretary read the paper prepared by Mr. Bardwell, who was not able to be present, concerning the methods of the Brooklyn Library.*

Mr. Poole.—I have been impressed while listening to the papers with the amount of latent

talent in the club not hitherto brought out. A good reference librarian, it is plain, must himself be a key to the entire contents of his library. In a consulting library he will be applied to chiefly in regard to two classes of questions: first, specific wants, as for instance this, recently asked of me: "Where can I find out about the Shirt of Nessus?" or another, "When did people begin dating from the Christian era?" The other class of inquirers are those who are engaged in special study, a special line of research. A man wishes to study the subject of the Pentateuch, for instance, and wants authorities. Bissell furnishes a bibliography of 2000 references. The "Encyclopædia Britannica" gives an article, and in its supplement is another written from an opposite standpoint. It is often necessary for the librarian himself to investigate personally for the reader. Willingness is most important. If you cannot find what is wanted in your own library you may be able to gather what you need in some other library. A short time ago I was asked for material on recent art in Germany. The catalogue did not show any work of a date late enough for the purpose, but on investigating the matter, "Lübke's History of Art," and "Contemporary Art in Europe," by Benjamin, yielded what was required. It is a great satisfaction to be able to supply these requests, and the importance of readiness and painstaking cannot be too greatly emphasized.

The President.—The reference librarian is to help others gather information. It is clear he must first himself understand the art. Few if any of our libraries have ever been rich enough to employ a reference librarian of proper education, and then give him time enough to keep himself informed so as to do the work rightly. He generally has a mass of other duties to perform. Until librarians have time for a little private study ideal reference work cannot be expected.

When a reader comes for help the first thing is to get him to put himself in connection with the source from which he hopes for aid, and to find out what he really wants.

If he inquires for the department of biography when he really wants to know when George Washington was born, he will not be well helped by being turned into a large collection of biography, but by finding out just his need and giving him the proper reference-book. I want always to diagnose the reader's case; find out if possible just his purpose, just the questions he has in mind, and then give him suitable material. Tact must be used. When we know what the reader wants, then we have a fair chance. Librarians are more likely to give a reader too much than too little. If we do not know, or do not have the right thing, then we may be obliged to turn him loose among a mass of material which may have what is wanted and let him search.

Do not, to show the resources of your library, give a reader much more than he wants. When you are at your wit's end is time enough to swamp a man with a mass of books.

Mr. Berry.—I find that very difficulty. It is so hard to get a fellow to tell what it is he is really after. He will say "Encyclopædia! Let-

* These we hope to print in a future issue.—Eos. L. J.

ter B." After a while perhaps you can get it out that he wants "*B-r-o*." We need to persuade readers to let their wants be known. A certain preacher came to my library and asked to see what I had on "Oratory." I got out the books and he spent a long time over them. As he went away I asked, as I often do, if he got what he wanted. "Not exactly, but I'll be in again." Finally I learned that what he wanted was "pulpit oratory." I got down my homiletics, blew the dust off, and he got what he wanted.

Miss Coe.—I have been greatly impressed with the idea of making permanent the results of researches made in these special cases, as Miss Mosman has told us they are doing at Pratt Institute. Would it not be possible for libraries to co-operate in this work, so that others could avail themselves of researches made?

The President.—I understand that you would suggest something similar to Mr. Foster's Monthly Reference lists?

Miss Coe.—I would have the material gathered by the reference department reproduced and exchanged.

The President.—It is an excellent idea. The great trouble with our work is, we are all working so much alone.

Mr. Hill.—I move that a committee be appointed to confer in regard to such action and report at the next meeting. Voted.

The chair appointed as such committee Mr. Hill, Miss Coe, and Miss Mosman, and called upon Mr. Nelson for remarks.

Mr. Nelson.—I am glad to see such excellent results achieved by the New York Library Club, and its growth since the last meeting I attended when I was expelled because I was going south of Mason and Dixon's line. The attendance to-day is I believe double that of that meeting. At the Howard Memorial Library we were keeping a permanent card index for answers to questions in a certain line. The school-teachers issued search questions in American history, and when we found the same question was being asked over and over, we began the permanent index, which was found to be a great saving of time. The assistants became much interested in reference work, and one took charge of the "Questions and Answers" in the New Orleans *Times-Democrat*. The Prize questions, however, overwhelmed us. I think the Library Club has reason to be proud of what it is doing. These short papers especially strike me as an admirable feature.

Mr. Poole.—It is a question how much time can be devoted to prize questions. One wishes to be as obliging as possible, yet there is a limit to the time which we can legitimately devote to them, when more serious purposes claim our attention.

The President.—The "Prize question fiend" does not trouble us much here. The only experience I recollect was in the case of a very attractive lady who came one summer when we were not very busy. I rather approve of prize questions.

Mr. Hill.—I told my assistants to put such persons in the way of finding out for themselves by supplying them with material.

Mr. Poole.—Pamphlets will be found to have their use frequently in answering some out-of-the-way query.

The President.—The trouble is they are not usually catalogued. To do it so as to insure their answering the question when it comes is an immense task and can only be done in a small degree.

Miss Coe.—That, it seems to me, is a great argument for close classification. If the pamphlets are closely classified an assistant, however ignorant, can put his hands on it when it is needed.

Mr. Nelson.—Good library catalogues are a great help in reference work, and it is the duty of librarians to make such known. I recommend to you all the very useful catalogue of the Cleveland Public Library. The great number of analytical entries of books of essays is a very valuable feature. This work was done by Mr. Brett in behalf of the public schools of the city.

The President.—We are not all reference librarians, but we have all been readers in libraries. Cannot we have the benefit of one another's experience from that point of view?

Mr. Hagar spoke of the difficulty he had met in getting statistical and financial information about American municipalities from the libraries, which was, however, not so great as the difficulty in getting it from the city officials themselves.

The President spoke of the pleasure which the members of the Club at Columbia College had taken in the hospitalities which had been offered them in the homes of some members and in the libraries which had entertained the Club, and in the name of the entire staff of Columbia College Library invited them to a very light collation, which it was hoped would yet conduce to the social enjoyment of the meeting.

Mr. Poole moved a vote of thanks for the hospitality of Columbia College, as manifested by its President, its Chief Librarian, and its Library Staff.

Voted.

Miss Coe moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Baker for his very able management of the affairs of the Club during the year of his presidency, as shown by the rapid growth in membership and the increased interest and value of the meetings.

Mr. Hill seconded the motion, ascribing these good results entirely to the well-directed efforts of the President, and taking occasion to thank the Club for the honor of his own election to that high office.

A rising vote of thanks was given Mr. Baker.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m., and an hour was devoted to praiseworthy effort on the part of the Club to live up to the spirit of its Constitution, by promoting "acquaintance and fraternal relations" among its members.

M. I. CRANDALL, Secretary.

Reviews.

CATALOGUE of the works of Grotius and of books relating to him presented to the Holland Society of New York by its president, Robert B. Roosevelt, October, 1890. 28 p. O.

This collection is an example of what may be accomplished by a single individual. In this handsomely printed catalog are recorded 214 lots, or 258 volumes by, or relating to, Hugo Grotius, which have been purchased by Mr. Roosevelt and very appropriately donated to the New York society which represents the nationality of which Grotius was so distinguished a citizen. If the public libraries of New York were to bring together their books on this subject, it is to be questioned if they would, combined, equal this one, and so far as the reviewer is aware, there is not a library in this country that will bear comparison with this collection. Such a mass, it is almost needless to say, is practically an impossibility to a large library, for neither knowledge nor time enough can be spared to so minute a class of the world's literature, while to a small library it is out of the question, not merely on account of the uselessness to such, but as well as on account of the cost. Such an assemblage of books, therefore, can only be brought together by the watchfulness, enthusiasm, and labor of an individual collector, and every scholar and librarian must owe Mr. Roosevelt thanks, not merely for gathering it, but for generously donating it to an institution of a semi-public character.

P. L. F.

SACCONI, Giulia. Nuova sistema di legatura meccanica per cataloghi. Firenze, 1891. 11 + [1] p. O. + 2 folded plates.

A pamphlet describing an invention for fastening catalog cards in book-form, after the Leyden method, has been received from the inventor, Signorina Giulia Sacconi, assistant librarian in the Biblioteca Marucelliana, of Florence, Italy. The cards to which this method is applied are $25 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ cm., or about $9\frac{1}{4} \times 4\frac{1}{4}$ in., a very large size compared with the card used by the majority of libraries in this country; and are punched with two holes on the end, which come against the back of the binder, which has fixed into the inside of its front cover close to where the cover joins the back, two small rods or points, long enough to reach to the other cover, and fitted with oval screw-heads or nuts. The cards being laid face down on the front cover, with the rods through the holes, a flat thin slip of steel, with oval holes to fit the nuts, which is secured to and folds back upon the inner edge of the cover, is laid over them; and by means of a small key or screw-driver inserted into a keyhole between the screws, the latter are turned so as apparently to bring their longer diameter across the shorter diameter of the holes, and locked into place. When it is desired to take out, or insert a card, the screws are turned by means of the key, the steel bar folded back on the cover, and the cards lifted off the rods until the right place is reached. This method, I believe, has been put in practice

at the Harvard College Library, except that the cards are freed by using a thumb-screw instead of a key, which of course, makes it a little easier for the cards to be taken out by the frequenters of the library.

Signorina Sacconi's argument in favor of this method of making a catalog is entirely as between it and the old way of writing the titles in a book; the question of arranging the cards in drawers sliding in and out in a case, which, to the modern librarian, is the other side of the argument, is not touched upon. The conservative mind, to whom the idea of an ancient and time-honored library, with a modern card-catalog, accessible to the general public, would be as Cicero arrayed in a tennis cap, might find comfort in still going to a book, no matter how small, to find what he wants, and gradually be led thereby to better things; but the case of card catalog *vs.* book has been settled by the librarian of the period, the volume arrangement being an attempt to combine the advantages of both.

The catalog card used in most American libraries is $12\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{1}{2}$ cm., or just about one-third of the size of the cards described in the pamphlet. If Signa. Sacconi's invention could be applied to so small a volume as this sized card would make, the experiment might be tried, although it is questionable whether the merits of this method over that of catalog drawers could ever be so completely demonstrated as to make a change of system desirable. The advantages claimed for the volume are that a greater number of cards can be arranged in the same space, that the volumes can be placed in a case, revolving or fixed, anywhere in the room, and that they are accessible to more persons at one time than if stored in drawers. We wait for Mr. Lane's experience.

T. O. E. GREEN.

Library Economy and History.

Ansonia, Conn. The new Ansonia Library which is to be built from designs by George Keller, the architect, of this city, has been staked out and the excavating has been begun. The library is the gift of Miss Caroline Phelps Stokes, of New York. The entire cost of the building will be between \$30,000 and \$40,000. It is to be built of Long Meadow stone for the outside walls and the roof is to be covered with Spanish pattern terra-cotta tile. The interior is to be practically fire-proof; all the walls being brick and the ground floor above basement supported on brick arches constructed of large, flat, thin tile, after the old Spanish manner, but recently revived by Guastavino, of New York. The floors of the reading room, library, delivery room and hall will probably be of stone mosaic; all the windows have stone jambs and mullions and are to be fitted with leaded glass.

The interior finish, desks, tables, etc., is to be of quartered oak. The library will have a capacity of 20,000 volumes which can be further increased to 10,000 more.

Atlantic City (N. J.) P. L. A meeting was held in the Public Library rooms, April 16, by

quite a number of ladies and gentlemen interested in permanently establishing such a feature on a solid basis. A report was made as to progress in incorporating under a general law of New Jersey and signatures were secured to the necessary 10 days' notice for a meeting for such a purpose. A committee of thirteen was appointed by the chairman to canvass the city at once for members, books, periodicals, suggestions and encouragement of every sort. The name of the association will be the Public Library of Atlantic City.

Ayer, Mass. A despatch from Ayer, Mass., states that Frederick F. Ayer, of New York, who about a year ago gave \$5000 to the public library of Ayer, had placed himself in communication with the town authorities of Ayer, announcing his intention of buying land opposite the High School and building on it a structure to be presented to the town for a library, and that the deed was passed and suitable resolutions were to be drawn up in acknowledgment of the gift. Mr. Ayer was seen by a *Tribune* reporter at his office, No. 35 Wall Street, and he said: "The despatch is correct except that part which says I would do yet more for the town bearing my family name. That is something I cannot confirm. The town was named after my father."

"I have given the town a lot having a frontage of 100 feet, and a depth of some 200 feet, opposite the high school. I intend building the handsomest library building in Massachusetts. I have photographs of existing buildings of this nature, and shall put up something superior to them all. The building will be of stone and iron — absolutely fire-proof. There will not be a strip of wood in it, if I can help it. Even the shelves and casings will be of metal. The floors throughout will be of stone. I have not yet determined on the plans or style of architecture, but the building will be large enough to hold from 20,000 to 50,000 volumes. The present library already numbers from 10,000 to 15,000 volumes."

Baltimore, Md. The *Johns Hopkins University Library* has just been made the recipient of the entire collection of ms. and other historical material of Mr. J. Thomas Scharf, the prolific author of State, city and county histories. It is very rich in documents dating from early colonial times to the close of the late war. "In documents illustrating the history of the Southern States it is believed to be unrivalled," and the university is naturally prompted to make it the nucleus of a library of materials for authentic Southern history. "These records will not be merely stored away, but they will be arranged and made accessible, under proper restrictions, to writers or students of history." Moreover, the University will receive and deposit what the present owners do not wish to alienate permanently.

Boston (Mass.) P. L. (39th rept.) Added 15,599; total 536,027, of which 141,248 are in the branches and 394,779 in the central library; issued 1,875,411; fict. and juv. 65%; lost 1 in each 24,044 lent; funds \$195,500; income from

them \$10,018; expenses, \$174,173.73 (binding \$1902.34; books \$44,160.21; periodicals \$2871.35 salaries \$87,918.99).

At the meeting of the Board of Aldermen, May 4, Alderman Lee offered an order authorizing the Mayor to appoint a commission of three building experts to examine the estimates of the Trustees of the Public Library and report as to whether those estimates, amounting in all to about \$1,000,000, will cover the total expense of the work which has yet to be done. The order was briefly discussed. Alderman Keenan moved its assignment for one week. Alderman Lewis opposed assignment and urged the passage of the order, saying that the City Council had been misled by the library architects. The appointment of these experts would give the City Council information which would not be misleading.

A correspondent writes to the editor of *The Globe*:

"Allow me to draw your attention, and that of the public in general, to a rule of the Boston Public Library which, it seems to me, is very illiberal and narrow-minded.

"A short time ago I applied for a number of a serial publication in German, and was told that I could not have it because it was not bound. Asking the librarian for the privilege of using the same, I was requested to make a written application to the trustees, containing the purpose for which it was needed. This I did, stating that I wanted the periodical for the translation of a few sentences, to be used as quotations in a lecture and a newspaper article on German literature.

"A few days later I received the refusal of my application, and as a reason was given this, 'unbound periodicals are not loaned out.'

"It seems to me more than strange that the Public Library does not trust a student one number of a magazine, the price of which is 10 cents, while on the other hand he can get very valuable books, the binding of which cost dollars.

"Knowing personally the libraries of London, Paris, Berlin, Vienna, Rome, St. Petersburg, Moscow, Odessa, etc., I have found prevailing everywhere the utmost liberality, especially to students and writers.

"In mentioning this incident I think I am acting for the benefit of the people, as well as for the reputation of the 'Hub.'

"EMIL BLUM, Ph.D."

Brooklyn (N. Y.) L. Added 3956; total 106,658; issued 95,032.

"Ten additional volumes of clippings have been completed and placed in the reference department, increasing the collection to a total of 56 volumes.

"Several copies of Sargent's 'Reading for the young' have been marked on the margin in red ink, with the shelf number of such books as are in our library. These marked copies are placed in the reference and delivery rooms for consultation by readers."

Brooklyn (N. Y.) Pratt Institute. A clause in the will of the late Charles Pratt is as follows:

"I devise to the Pratt Institute, a corporation of the State of New York, and its successors in fee, the lots of land on Ryerson Street, extending

through to Grand Avenue, between Willoughby and De Kalb Avenues, with the buildings on them, erected or in process of erection, known as the Pratt Institute, and all the personal property thereon and thereto belonging.

"I also give to the Pratt Institute and its successors in fee the lots on Franklin Street, with the building thereon known as 'The Astral,' and the lots on Vanderbilt Avenue, with the buildings erected thereon, known as 'The Inwood,' and also the studio building. I contemplate deeding this real estate to the Institute in my lifetime, in which case the above devise will be imperative.

"I have given in my lifetime to said Pratt Institute a fund of \$2,000,000, which will be found credited to the Institute on the books of Charles Pratt & Co. If said gift for any reason should prove not to be legal, I hereby bequeath the same sum to said Pratt Institute, or so much thereof as shall not have been appropriated for the benefit of the Institute during my lifetime; devising that said Institute shall permit said sum to remain as an investment in the said firm of Charles Pratt & Co. as long as it remains safe and advisable so to do, and that the profits thereof be used for the benefit of the Institute."

Brooklyn (N. Y.) Union for Christian Work F. L. Added 3724; discarded 263; total 17,753; issued 108,517.

"It is a noteworthy fact that with this large circulation we have lost only one book. Our list of readers has increased over last year 2059; we have now 8306 names on our record-book. With the \$5000 paid to us from the city treasury in January, 1890, we added to the library 3724 books, all carefully and judiciously selected, and have paid the expenses of making a card catalogue. The quality of the reading is still improving, the proportion of books other than fiction issued the past year is larger than ever before. In fiction, the books most read are the works of Edna Lyall, Walter Besant, E. P. Roe, W. D. Howells, Jane Austen, A. B. Edwards, Amelia Barr, Louise Alcott, Scott, Dickens, Thackeray. The four books having the largest circulation were "Little Women," "Little Lord Fauntleroy," "Ben Hur," "Ivanhoe." The annual grant of \$5000 from the city is inadequate to supply the demand for books by the largely increased number of readers. We need more money for this purpose. During the year we have placed reading tables in the space not filled by the library shelves, and placed on them illustrated papers and magazines for the use of all. This part of our room is very popular, 2000 or more using it each month; at times 150 to 200 are there each day."

Chicago (Ill.) Newberry L. Dr. W. F. Poole, librarian of the Newberry Library, states that the contracts for the stone, masonry, and steel and iron work of the permanent building have been let. The material selected is Massachusetts brown granite, cut before delivered. It is expected that the building will be under cover by January, and be finished some time in 1892, and that it will cost in the neighborhood of \$500,000. A very singular secrecy is still observed with reference to the elevations of the building. Dr. Poole

and Justice Bradley said that they knew no reason why they should not be published, but the architect, Henry Ives Cobb, refused to give them out, and said that he might not do so for six months to come. All that is generally known about them is that they are four complete stories in height, besides a basement and a roof-story, and that they are an abrupt departure from the traditional and absurd Gothic style of former great library buildings. They will be an emphatic modern Romanesque. The foundations of the building about to be erected were put in last fall on the block fronting the north end of Washington Park, and are 318 x 212 feet in size. The new building will constitute only the south wing of the quadrangular design of the complete structure. But it is calculated to meet the demands of the next twenty-five years, and will have a capacity of 400,000 volumes.

Concord (Mass.) F. P. L. Added 929; total 23,218; issued 19,840. Oct. 23, 1890, W. M. Prichard gave the library 6 bonds valued at about \$5000, the income to be used in buying books "like the volume which had been given to the sage of 'The Teacups,' of which he says, 'It was just just one of those works which I might hesitate about buying, but should be well pleased to own, and has been a great source of instruction and entertainment to me.'"

Essex Co. (N. J.) Penitentiary L. The Rev. Thomas Maguire, who is one of the chaplains of the Essex County Penitentiary, has taken an active interest in securing a library for that institution. Besides giving a large bookcase he has secured subscriptions. The library contains 380 volumes.

Flushing (N. Y.) F. P. L. Extensive repairs and improvements are being made on the old Baptist church, which recently passed into the hands of the Free Library Association, and will hereafter be known as the Public Library.

Indiana Univ. L., Bloomington, Ind. We have received from Mr. W. W. Spangler, librarian, a photograph of the library, a pleasing building and apparently well lighted. The stack is lighted on the correct principle—a window to each alley—and shows the error of those who think that this cannot be done with good architectural effect.

Iowa Falls (Ia.) L. The old D. W. C. society has disbanded, and will give its library, which consists of about 500 volumes, to the newly formed Y. M. C. A. branch at this place, which will form a nucleus for a large library which the association ultimately expects to accumulate.

Littleton (N. H.) P. L. Added 285; total 3405; circulated 15,189; borrowers 964; receipts \$879.11; disbursements \$480.51.

The Committee on Purchase of Books would report that they have given a good deal of care to the subject, and have conscientiously endeavored to use the public money in proper and profitable ways. They have purchased 170 volumes during the year, and have also secured some of the donations mentioned by the librarian. One of their chief duties has been to prepare, with the

librarian's invaluable help, a large list of suggestions to be submitted to the Hon. C. A. Sinclair with reference to his liberal gift now.

Minneapolis (Minn.) P. L. (1st rpt.) Added 12,355; total 42,002; issued 202,932 (fict. and juv. 72.42 %).

"The intention has been to furnish as large a proportion as practicable of the best grades of books that would satisfy the public demand, as it is fully realized that money expended for light works of fiction is, to a considerable extent, like spending public money for confectionery to be distributed gratuitously. The only redeeming features are, the prospect and perhaps probability of inducing those using this form of reading to choose at a later period a more valuable class of books, through the instrumentality of a taste acquired by first reading the works of fiction, or that this light reading may be a considerable improvement on the way this class of people would otherwise spend the time devoted to it."

The librarian says (in regard to the percentage of fiction read):

"1. The convenience and attractiveness of our reading-rooms, and the freedom of access accorded, induce a larger than usual proportion of serious reading to be done upon the premises; and that, therefore, the outside circulation would naturally show a larger than usual percentage of the lighter classes.

"2. During the first two months of the year, the only printed catalogue besides that of the foreign literature, was the catalogue of prose fiction and juveniles.

"3. The 74 per cent. includes both these classes. Since September the record of the two being kept distinct shows the books for the young to have formed 20 $\frac{2}{3}$ per cent.; while the prose fiction, novels proper, was but 52 $\frac{1}{3}$."

"Beginning with September, 1890, from four to nine copies of the current numbers of the following magazines have been circulated: *North American Review*, *Forum*, *Popular Science Monthly*, *Eclectic*, *Harper's*, *Century*, *St. Nicholas*, and *Wide Awake*. They are issued upon a three-days' limit. During the four months the circulation of these periodicals has been 1489. They are wired into plain board covers which cost 12 cents apiece, and which preserve them in condition for binding subsequently into volumes. These volumes will then circulate as ordinary books.

"The library now is strong in the historical and literary classes; relatively weak in the scientific and technical. This is due in a measure to the difficulty of predicating in advance the extent and the direction of the demand for scientific and technical literature. Other kinds of literature may be kept and retain their standard value; but scientific and technical books must be used to-day, for they are superseded to-morrow. And as their initial cost is great, they can safely be bought only in answer to a definite demand which intends to put them to immediate use.

"The problems of the immediate future are the problems of a large library; of a library called upon to do a large work, and estopped from refusing to do it. As to circulation, a single year

has ranked it seventh of all libraries in the United States. As to income, it ranks among the first five. In number of volumes it is, of course, as yet behind; but it is nevertheless the largest library in Minnesota; and within three years may be the largest library but one (that of the Wisconsin Historical Society) northwest of Chicago. And, finally, it is placed in a community that by hereditary tastes and by conscious ambition is a community of readers; and the excellence of whose school system tends toward the increasing development of a community of readers.

"The immediate problems, therefore, are these:

"(1) The library needs a full author catalogue and a full subject catalogue.

"(2) The branches will not reach their full effectiveness until they shall each contain an independent circulating library.

"(3) Delivery stations—one at the centre of the city and others scattered through the remoter districts—would greatly extend the distributing efficiency of the library at very small proportionate increase of expense.

"(4) The relation of the library to the common school system demands to be systematized upon a recognized basis. (a) It is not here a question of establishing a relation; the relation already exists and cannot be escaped. Over 20 per cent. of the books circulated this year were drawn by children within the school age. (b) In self-defence, therefore, libraries seek to utilize the intimate influence of the school-teachers toward directing this mass of reading into proper channels. (c) And to this end they effect a special relation with the schools, which usually embodies the following features:

"(1) A thorough understanding between the librarian and the teachers as to what the schools need and what the library can furnish.

"(2) The issue of library cards through the teachers to certain children under the 14-year limit; and the issue of books to such children only from lists approved by the teacher. The issue of a library card in such cases working as a reward for studiousness.

"(3) The issue to the schools of a number of books at a time to be used for illustration in the class-room.

"(4) This issue through the teachers, so far as practicable, of all library-books drawn by pupils of the schools; thus enabling the teachers to keep informed of the kind and amount of outside reading done by each pupil.

"How much might here be accomplished in these ways, I am not prepared to predict. It is certain, however, that in the absence of such system, the library has been, in cases, a detriment rather than an aid to the schools. Numerous instances have been reported where pupils formerly studious have been corrupted into careless disregard of their studies by vagarious outside reading. The library can avoid furnishing vicious books, but it cannot prevent these children from reading a book a day bearing no relation to their studies. The parents rarely take pains to prevent them. Only the co-operation of the library and the schools can do so; and it can do so, not by prohibiting the unrelated reading, but by stim-

ulating an interest in reading that is related. There is, therefore, no library of our type in the United States which is not undertaking such a systematic union with the schools, and there is no part of library extension which appears to accomplish so much with so slight a proportionate expenditure, or whose results are recorded with such invariable enthusiasm."

New York. The *American Museum of Natural History* has been enriched by a library containing almost 11,000 volumes, valued at \$15,000, the gift of Mrs. M. Schuyler Elliot, widow of Dr. S. Lowell Elliot, and intended as a memorial to her husband, who was a well-known entomologist. — *Critic*, May 2.

New York (N. Y.) F. Circulating L. Henry G. Marquand has recently given to the library \$5000, without conditions, which the directors are at liberty to put to such use as in their judgment is for the best interest of the library. Under the constitution Mr. Marquand's name, by reason of this gift, will be placed on the list of "founders" of the library.

N. Y. Mercantile L. On Monday, May 25, the Mercantile Library opened its beautiful new rooms on the sixth and seventh floors of the new Clinton Hall, made easily accessible by two large elevators. It has now accommodation for its 235,000 volumes, with a shelving capacity for 300,000, which can readily be increased to hold 700,000. Ample light, comfortable reading facilities, and all the latest library inventions and labor-saving devices make the commodious rooms almost ideal quarters for a great circulating and reference library. — *Critic*.

N. Y. Y. M. C. A. L. Added 972; total 38,403; issued 47,393 (fict. 10.7 %); Sunday-use 3599; persons using books 31,903.

"On New Year's Day there was a general exhibition of some of the art and rare treasures of the library, which were seen with much pleasure by several hundred young men.

"On Washington's Birthday, the second annual special exhibition was given. The previous exhibition was for the benefit of architects and students in the architectural schools. To the second exhibition were invited the students from the art schools, and books on the various subjects connected with the fine arts were displayed. A large number accepted the invitation.

"In November, an effort was made to bring the young men in the evening classes, in the building, in closer connection with the library. A selection of books was made adapted to each class or group of classes. It was not expected that any one could read all the books recommended, but it seemed desirable to cover the subject with some completeness, and thus afford opportunity for selection. Five or six books on each list were emphasized, and their reading especially recommended.

"As an illustration of the list of books for the group of business classes, we note that works were commended on the history and institutions of the country, as Bancroft's, Bryant's, and Higginson's histories, Fisk's 'Civil government of the United States,' Bryce's 'American common

wealth;' also works on political economy, finance, banking, commerce, lives of business men, and such suggestive books as Matthews' 'Getting on in the world,' and Davidson's 'Sure to succeed.'

"Such works as the following were suggested to the class in German: Bryce's 'Holy Roman Empire,' Lewis' 'History of Germany,' Menzel's 'History of Germany,' Sherer's 'History of German literature,' Baring-Gould's 'Germany, past and present,' Carlyle's 'Frederick II.,' Hart's 'German universities,' works of fiction illustrating periods in German history, as Scott's 'Anne of Geierstein,' some of the German writers; Lowe's 'Prince Bismarck,' Köstlin's 'Life of Martin Luther,' etc.

"In the class of Free-hand Drawing, the books themselves were laid before the students. Very large results were scarcely to be expected, and as yet have not been realized, but as there has been a call for some of the books suggested, and as the term has but partially expired, it is believed the experiment was worth the trial. The preparation of these lists showed that there were deficiencies in the library in these lines that should be supplied, and for the Mechanical Drawing Class some works have been already procured.

"At a recent members' meeting of the Twenty-third Street Branch, the young men were addressed by a member of the Library Committee, on 'The Association Library.' The address was a familiar talk, giving some points about the early history of the library, and offering valuable suggestions, showing how readers could use to intelligent purpose the rich materials at their command. Books from different departments in the library were used to illustrate the address. Similar practical talks should become a more prominent feature in Association work.

"The Association notes have been used to advantage for the purpose of publishing lists of new books, with notes as to their character and value.

"The pleas for more room for the library must be renewed again with increased force. The omnibus capacity of the library seems almost incredible, as, year by year, one thousand or more volumes find their places on the shelves. It has become a question of storage, however, rather than shelf arrangement. Any plan for the extension of the library in the present building can only be temporary, and could not supply what is needed. A new building can alone meet the urgent requirements of the case.

"Reading-matter has been sent to the Armory by the Association, 44,415 papers, magazines, etc. Some of the acknowledgments are:

"From Fort Niobrara, Nebraska:

"Reading-matter is invaluable to soldiers in a frontier post, who are cut off from the world, in a manner; and the weekly batch of papers is welcomed by men from all parts of the globe."

"From San Carlos, A. T.:

"A couple of winters ago, while stationed at Fort Spokane, Wash., I observed the welcome gift of packages of newspapers for soldiers' reading. It has just occurred to me how much it would be appreciated by my troop, during its six months' tour at this remote place, so destitute of

comfort and attraction, could they be similarly favored with papers."

"From Fort McKinney, Wyoming:

"The papers that the Association has sent to the Post Hospital here have been appreciated very much by the sick, and members of the Hospital Corps, of which I am in charge."

"From Fort Custer, Montana:

"Our library is in a sad condition—there being no fund whatever for its support. We are doing all we can to induce the authorities to allow a certain percentage of the canteen profits to be used for its replenishment. If this is granted we shall be able to make it attractive and profitable again to the men of the garrison."

Newburg (N. Y.) F. L. Added 677; total 17,150; issued 64,707. Circulation compared with other libraries: Number of volumes in 273 libraries 4,577,553; circulation the past year 6,436,195; average circulation per volume 1.45; number of volumes in Newburg Free Library 17,150; circulation the past year 64,707; average circulation per volume 3.77.

Newburyport (Mass.) P. L. Added 772; total 26,306; issued 31,727 (fict. and juv. 6,935). In the year over 100 juvenile books, carefully selected, have been added; "the result is that the number of boys and girls who use the library is at least five times in excess of what it was two years since. . . . The necessity of furnishing mental food suitable to the mind of the recipient, as well as bodily food suitable to his physical condition, is too well acknowledged now to need any argument."

Philadelphia Merc. L. Co. Added 2472; total 164,208; issued 73,814.

"In our last annual report we called attention to the fact that it had become necessary, if our books were to be saved from mutilation and from theft, to enclose the cases by means of railings and to admit no one within the enclosure but members holding keys. These keys were supplied to the members for their own use on deposit of twenty-five cents. The plan has worked admirably during the last year. More than 1700 keys have been applied for and have been loaned to members. No appreciable delay has been discovered in the delivery of books from the shelves to the central desk. The library has been kept cleaner than ever before, and never have our books been found in as good order. We are glad to be able to report a marked decrease in the loss and ruin of books during the year (In 1889 757 volumes were unaccounted for; in 1890 only 182) and a gain in the appearance of the room and of the service at the delivery-desk.

"At first the novel cases, as the most frequently used, were not included in the enclosure, but the loss and misplacement of books there and the request of many members that the enclosure should be extended to those cases also led to the protection of that department with railings in the same manner as the other parts of the library."

Portland (Me.) P. L. Added 526; total 35,400; home use 88,032; lib. use 32,122.

"When this library was first started, books

were solicited and received from all directions. Some came in large quantities at a time, and as it was desirous to get them into shape for use as soon as possible, inexperienced help was called in to make a record of them, stamp, shelve, number, cover, and catalogue as rapidly as it could be done, but the confusion arising from this hasty work has in a large degree been remedied.

"We have received 24 notices through the mail from the City Clerk of the location of contagious diseases, but fortunately no book belonging to the library was found to be in one of these families at the time.

"We shall miss our faithful cataloguer, Mary E. Harbour, who on account of ill health resigned the position she has held almost continuously since the first opening of the library in 1867."

Ross (Washington) L. and Lit. Assoc. Articles incorporating the Ross Library and Literary Association were filed in the Auditor's office May 12. The incorporators are Mrs. M. J. Ross, L. E. Chestnut, J. H. McNight, Mrs. L. H. Chase, Lee Smith, Mrs. L. King, Mrs. L. A. Mullin, and William Crawford. The library will be situated and maintained at the town of Ross, King County. The officers for the first year are: President, Mary J. Ross; Secretary, Mrs. G. H. Chase; Treasurer, J. H. McNight; Librarian, Mrs. H. B. Smith.

Salem (Mass.) P. L. has received from the Hon. J. B. F. Osgood \$100 for books for the reference library. This is additional to \$1000 previously given by him for the same purpose; also, from James D. Perkins, of New York, a native of Salem, \$100, "which can be used in any way the trustees may desire."

The will of the late J. Linton Waters, of Salem, Mass., provides that such books as are not selected by his brothers may be turned over to the Salem Public Library or Salem Athenaeum.

Stockton, Cal. The will of W. P. Hazleton, who died at Tarrytown last week, leaves to the city of Stockton, Cal., \$75,000 in trust for a public library. — *Critic*, May 2.

Syracuse, N. Y. Congressman Belden has written the following letter:

To the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Syracuse:

GENTLEMEN: As a citizen of Syracuse, I am much impressed with the demand for a public building suitable for a first-class reference and circulating library, with adequate accommodations for works of art, so located and constructed as to provide for present needs and future requirements. Such a building would, I am sure, greatly increase the efficiency of the library now owned by the city and also secure numerous donations, both literary and artistic, from generous and public-spirited citizens.

I am convinced by observation and inquiry that the practical value of such an institution is best secured when the humblest and smallest taxpayer feels a personal interest in its support and an individual right to all its advantages. Libraries under private control and hampered with restrictions have proved comparative failures; only those which are free to the whole community and

supported by it have been really and permanently useful. In my judgment, therefore, it is for the interest of the city that its public library, like its public schools, should be mainly supported at public expense, for in that alone can every citizen become a joint proprietor and personally concerned in its care and improvement.

These considerations have led me to make the following proposition, which I respectfully submit to your honorable body:

If the city of Syracuse will furnish a suitable site, and will agree to expend annually for maintenance and for the support and enlargement of the library the sum of at least six thousand dollars, I will construct on such site and donate to the city a complete fire-proof library and art building, to cost not less than one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, the plans to be approved by the Common Council and the Library Association recently organized in our city.

Leaving all questions of management and regulation to be determined hereafter by the city authorities, I make no other conditions than those above mentioned, my desire and intention being that the building so constructed shall be public property to be held and used solely for the public benefit.

If you see fit to accept this proposition I shall be ready at any time to join in such further action as may be necessary to make the obligation mutually binding. With great respect,

Yours very truly, JAMES J. BELDEN.

SYRACUSE, May 18, 1891.

Yorktown (N. D.), Empire L. The library was opened May 14 in the presence of the Governor and many others. It starts with 1000 vols.

This entire plant—the building lot, building, fitting-up building and the supply of books—was donated by various friends East, all free and clear, with the exception of probably fifty dollars on expense account, which possibly may be reduced by a few generous hearts.

FOREIGN.

Adelaide. Public L., Museum, and Art Gallery of South Australia. Added 1342; total 28,834; visitors 72,105 (9207 more than the previous year).

Freiherrl. Carl von Rothschild'sche öff. Bibliothek. BERGHOEFFER, *Biblioth. Dr. Christ. W: die Einrichtung u. Verwaltung der freiherrl. Carl v. Rothschild'schen öffentlichen Bibliothek*, 1887-90. — Frankfurt a. M., Baer & Co., 1891. 3 p. 8" + 3 plates, 2 m.

Liverpool (Eng.) F. P. L. Vols. in library 150,957; issued 1,091,947; magazines issued 422,598; newspaper visitors 231,501; lectures 49; lecture attendances 40,025.

London. Public Record Office. Provision has been made this year for a much-needed extension of the premises. The total cost of the new buildings is estimated to exceed £60,000.

"Thanks to the liberality of the Treasury, the Public Record Office has been enabled to purchase a valuable collection, in twelve large volumes, of indexes to the more important entries on the *Coram Rege* and *De Banco* rolls, made by the late General Plantagenet Harrison during his long-extended researches among the national

muniments. The acquisition is greatly appreciated by the historical students, genealogists, and others who frequent the Record Office." — *Ath.*, May 2.

PRACTICAL NOTES.

Ladder for High Shelves. Book-shelves ought never to be made higher than the hand can reach; but where they already exist the rolling step-ladder made by the Coburn Trolley Track Manufacturing Co., Worcester, Mass., would be useful. Attached to the steps at the top is a trolley having two small wheels, adapted to run in a track secured to ceiling strips, the steps resting on the floors on rollers, so that they may easily be propelled either way by one on them, without coming down to the floor. They are at the same distance from the shelves at both bottom and top, and can be raised from the floor and carried over obstacles if necessary. See a cut in the *Scientific American*, Jan. 31, 1891, p. 68, and note in *Sci. Am.*, Mar. 21, p. 185.

Catalogue Cards on a Remington Typewriter. We think we have an improvement on the device described by Mr. Dennis in the April JOURNAL (for holding catalogue cards in a Remington typewriter), that we have been using several years, and can recommend to libraries. We have taken the two envelope-holders that accompany each typewriter, and cut off the lower portion of each, about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch below the roller slot. For convenience in handling when on the typewriter, they have been united by means of a bar $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches long, riveted to the under side of the thumb-piece of each. By a little adjustment the device can be made to hold about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch of the upper edge of the card, and at the same time not interfere with the free action of the types. The card can be readily moved forward, and can be printed to within $\frac{1}{8}$ inch of the lower edge. It takes but a moment to adjust the card in the typewriter. I. S. BRADLEY.

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN.

Librarians.

ABBOTT, S: A. B. A Paris paper of recent date tells the following story:

"About half-past six o'clock last evening, Mr. Frank Welch and his cousin, Mr. Samuel A. B. Abbott, President of the Board of Trustees of the Boston Public Library, were driving in the Champs-Élysées from the Bois de Boulogne, in a cab. Just at the corner of the Rue Marbeuf and the Champs-Élysées a private carriage crossing the Champs-Élysées dashed into them, knocking the driver senseless to the ground. Their horse tore along the Champs-Élysées with the two helpless men inside the cab.

"Mr. Abbott, however, with great presence of mind, opened the cab door, and reached for the railing of the box seat, by which he drew himself to the front of the cab. He then crawled on the back of the animal, which was galloping at full speed, and succeeded in getting the bearing-rein, by which he stopped the horse near the Rond Point. The cab and two occupants were

uninjured, but the driver was very seriously injured by the accident."

A private letter from Mr. Welch adds some interesting particulars: "The avenue was crowded, and no one tried to stop our horse, who was going faster and faster. S. said, 'Hold on, sit quiet,' and he opened the door, crawled up onto the coachman's box, got over the dasher to the shaft, till he got the reins, and finally managed to pull up the horse, and we got out all right, most fortunately for us. S. received quite an ovation as we pulled up at the sidewalk."

SPANGLER, W: W., libn. Indiana University, will lead his 7th "summer vacation trip," taking a party of not over 25 from June 24 to Sept. 17, to Belgium, France, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, England, and Ireland, for not over \$500.

Cataloging and Classification.

IN THE HARTFORD L. ASSOC.'S BULLETIN for April, the special bibliography is "Short stories, selections, and humorous works." *Contents* of all collections are given.

MANCHESTER (Eng.) P. F. Ls. Occasional lists, no. 3: The shorthand collection. Mar., Apr., 1891. 44 p. O.

THE MILWAUKEE P. L. Quarterly index for Jan., Mar., contains "The authorship of Shakespeare's plays, bibliog. list of books and articles in the library, prepared for the Freeman-Donnelly debate in Milwaukee, April 28." (2½ pp.)

THE PRATT INSTITUTE LIBRARY, Brooklyn, N. Y., has issued a catalog of books suitable for children under 14 years. In the introduction the compiler says the object of this list is to introduce to the young ones "some friends whose acquaintance they will find desirable. These friends, some of them take us back to the days when people first began to make up stories with which to please themselves, stories about trees and clouds, and the ocean, and the air." Under the headings Myths, Homer to Pericles, Pericles to Virgil, Virgil to Age of Chivalry, Dante to Shakespeare, and Shakespeare to the present are given brief explanatory notes and the titles of from six to a dozen books on the subject. Under the heading Present are given about 100 selected books. Under the heading General are given about 25 books. The catalog itself is home-made, having been "printed" by a typewriter and "bound" with two McGill fasteners. The lists are printed on colored sheets representing the colors of the prism as nearly as they could be obtained in the material used, arranged in the order in which they occur in the prism. "Each color represents a period in the history of literature; the object being to associate the time and its writers with a color, as an aid to the memory." The catalog is further made attractive by the insertion of four mounted photographs of Homer, Virgil, Dante, and Shakespeare. The catalog is a happy idea, and certain to attract children. A list on domestic economy for girls and one on manual training for boys is in preparation. — *Pub. Weekly*.

SACCONI, Giulia. Un nuovo sistema di legatura meccanica per cataloghi. Firenze, 1891. 11 + 1 p. O. + 2 folded plates.

SALEM (Mass.) P. L. Bulletin. Vol. 1, no 1. May, 1891. 8 p. O.

The trustees of the Salem Public Library have issued the first number of the Bulletin of that institution in the hope of thereby making the library more useful. It will contain a list of new books added to the library, special reading lists on topics of current interest, and an editorial department consisting of library news and announcements, hints on reading, and the like. The lists of new books, together with the printed finding-lists and supplements, will form practically a complete catalog of the library. For the present, however, there is a gap between the issue of the second supplement to the finding-list and this first number of the Bulletin which is only covered by the lists in the delivery-room. The Bulletin will be furnished free to all users of the library, and it is hoped to make it of such value that the numbers will be carefully preserved. Readers will be able to make their selection of books at home, and the trustees hope it will lead to less reading for mere amusement and more for instruction and profit.

Abbreviations. Those who have Woodruff's List of abbreviations used in Italian booksellers' catalogs can obtain Prof. Fiske's supplementary list of 18 by sending their address and a one-cent stamp to C. A. CUTTER.

FULL NAMES.

The following are supplied by Harvard College Library.

Armstrong, Joseph Lamb (A grammar of English);
Batchelder, Ira Kendrick (Reunion celebration, together with an historical sketch of Peru, Vermont);
Derthick, Wilbur Morris, *editor* (A manual of music);
Dowd, Daniel Lawrence (Physical culture for home and school);
Foote, Allen Ripley (Municipal ownership of quasi-public works);
Foster, Robert F. (Whist manual);
Hill, Herbert Enos (Historic heights and points of interest in Somerville, Mass.);
Hinton, R. Josiah (Irrigation in the United States);
Langley, Alfred Gideon (Revelation, inspiration, and authority);
Luther H. Porter (Cycling for health and pleasure);
Morgan, T. Jefferson (Indian education);
Pond, Nathan Gillett (Ye story of the memorial);
Saunders, W. Laurence (Lessons from our North Carolina records);
Schneck, Jacob (The Rapplites. Interesting notes about early New Harmony);
Shriver, E. Johns (Want and wealth);
Smyth, Julian Kennedy (Footprints of the Saviour);

Tomson, Mrs. Graham Rosamund (Ball), wife of Arthur (Selections from the Greek anthology);

Vincent, Leon H: (A few words on Robert Browning).

CHANGED TITLES.

Walker's International Atlas, published in 1891 by "O. H. Walker, Philadelphia," and just now extensively sold, is nothing else than Cram's Atlas with another name, and is really published in Chicago. It is a very good atlas, and probably, as far as America goes, the best there is, but few libraries have any use for duplicate copies under different titles. I am told the same atlas is being sold under still other names.

K. A. LINDERFELT.

No. 4 of the "Unknown Library" series, "The friend of death," is really the same work as P. A. de Alarcón's work, translated by Mrs. Darr under the title of "The strange friend of Tito Gil."

M. MEDLICOTT.

"The friend of death; a fantastic tale" adapted from the Spanish by Mary J. Serrano, and published by the Cassell Pub. Co., N. Y., in the Unknown Library, 1891, is the same story as "The strange friend of Tito Gel," by Pedro A. de Alarcón, N. Y., A. Lovell & Co., S. cloth, \$1, in 1890.

W. A. BARDWELL.

"A brave woman," by E. Marlitt; tr. by M. P. Waterman, Worthington Co., N. Y., 1891, is the same story as that translated by Mrs. Wister, under the title of "The second wife," Phila., Lippincott & Co., 1874.

S. D. TUCKER.

Bibliography.

ARNOLD, E. Literary list of American and French books. V. 1, no. 2. London, E: Arnold, April, 1891. O. pp. 9-34.

Pages 25-29 contain "Standard American literature, chosen by C: K. Bolton, of the Harvard University Library. In this number Mr. Bolton continues the catalogue which he commenced in our first issue, and gives the principal standard American works in political science, philosophy, law, natural history, travel, poetry, and general literature."

BRUNET, Gustave. Etudes sur la reliure des livres et sur les collections de bibliophiles célèbres. 2d éd., consid. augm. Paris, Vve. Moquet, 1891. 6+175 p. 4°.

GRISWOLD, W: M. "Mr. W. M. Griswold has, as a professional guide to literature, performed no service better than in his 'Descriptive lists' of novels. He began with the class dealing with American country life; he has now issued a list for those portraying American city life, and another for 'international novels.' The method is the same in all: alphabetical arrangement by title, carefully chosen characterization from a reputable source, and index of titles,

authors, and locality. We should also notice a very convenient indication of the year of publication, besides the publisher's name. We have before said, and we repeat, that these lists should be kept in quantity in all public libraries, to serve as a sieve for fiction-readers; while parents with growing children who frequent such libraries would find the lists an invaluable check on indiscriminating reading." — *Nation*, May 14.

GRIFFIS, Wm. Elliot. Bibliography of Japanese travel and history, in *Christian Union*, May 15, 1891. 3 cols.

LADIES' COMMISSION ON SUNDAY-SCHOOL BOOKS. Annual list of books for Sunday-school and other libraries. Boston, Amer. Unitar. Assoc., 1891. 15 p. S. 5 cts.
253 v. examined; 69 approved.

SOCIETATUM litteræ; Verzeichniss d. in den Publicationen der Akademien u. Vereine aller Länder ersch. Einzelarbeiten a. d. Gebiete d. Naturwissenschaften; hrsg. v. E. Huth u. A. Hering. Jahrg. 5, No. 1. Berlin, R. Friedländer & Sohn, 1891. 8°. 4 marks a year.

STERNFELD, A., and KELLNER, K. Zahnärztliche Bücherkunde; bibliog. Verzeichniss, alph. geordnet. Lief. I. Karlsruhe, A. Bielefeld, 1891. 32 p. 8°. 10 marks a year subscr., after pub. 15 m.

VINSON, Julien. Essai de bibliographie de la langue basque. Paris; Maisonneuve, 1891. 48+471 p. 8°+12 fac-similes. 30 fr.

VITALE, dott. Ant. Opere edite ed inedite di autori nati nel Lagonegrese. Potenza, Pomarici, 1890. 15+90 p. 8°. 1 l.

In a number of German scientific journals, such as those devoted to *medicine, biology, microscopy*, etc., many or most of the important articles are followed each by a long and full "Literaturverzeichnis." These lists form more or less important contributions to the literature of special subjects in scientific study.

Among the journals whose contributors make a practice of adding such bibliographies to their articles, are:

"Archiv für Anatomie und Physiologie" (Leipzig);

"Archiv für mikroskopische Anatomie," (Bonn);

"Zeitschrift für wissenschaftliche Zoologie" (Leipzig);

"Archiv für die gesammte Physiologie des Menschen und der Thiere" (Bonn).

Similar lists will be found in some of the English scientific periodicals, as the "Quarterly Journal of Microscopical Science" (London).

The "Zeitschrift für wissenschaftliche Mikroskopie" (Braunschweig) publishes notices of numerous articles, on topics in the various departments of microscopy, buried in the vast mass of periodical literature that is brought out yearly,

These notices therefore form interesting contributions to the bibliography of microscopical science.

I would also call attention to the "Encyclopädisches Wörterbuch der medicinischen Wissenschaften" (Berlin, 1828-47), 36 vols.

All the more important articles in this work are followed by bibliographical lists, which are found to be extremely useful by specialists such as the contributors to the new dictionary of medicine which the Appletons are bringing out.

FRANK WEITENKAMPF,
Astor Library, N. Y. C.

INDEXES.

CATALOGO metodico degli scritti contenuti nelle pubblicazioni periodiche italiane e straniere. Parte I (Scritti biografici e critici): 2° suppl. Roma, tip. della Camera dei Deputati, 1890. 24 + 229 p. 8°. (Biblioteca della Camera dei Deputati.)

GIORNALE d'artiglieria e genio: Indice generale alfabetico delle materie, 1886-89. Roma, 1890. 80 p. 8°.

GRISWOLD, W. M. The *Centralbl. f. Bib.* for April, in a notice of the "Register zu deutschen Zeitschriften," declares that Mr. Griswold's plan is "beim Gebrauch sehr einfach und leicht."

Anonymous and Pseudonyms.

PETTERSEN, Hjalmar, *Amanuensis ved Universitets-Biblioteket*. Anonymes og pseudonymes i den norske literatur 1678-1890; bibliografiske meddelelser Kristiania, H. G. Nisja, 1890. 2 l. + 128 col. O. 5.30 frs. = \$1.

Includes books printed in Norway in whatever language, works of Norwegian authors wherever printed, translations of their works, books about Norway in any language. There are over 1800 titles carefully done. A book to be recommended to all who deal with Norwegian literature.

A dead man's diary, London, Ward, Lock & Co., 1890, is by Mr. Coulson Kernahan.—*Critic*.

Jerry, which has been running in *Scribner's Magazine* for some months, is by S. Barnwell Elliott.

Mademoiselle Ixe is by Miss Mary Hawker, whose name has long been familiar to man as a writer of short stories of varying merit.—*Publishers' Circular*.

In a widely spread newspaper paragraph it is stated that Jerome K. Jerome is the pseudonym of J. W. Arrowsmith. The statement is incorrect, and probably arose in confusing Mr. Jerome's name with that of Mr. Arrowsmith, of Bristol, England, who published some of Mr. Jerome's books.—*Publishers' Weekly*.

For the following we are indebted to Mr. W. M. Griswold.

The children of old Park's tavern, N. Y., Harpers, 1886, was by F. Amelia (Pope) Humphrey.

A famous victory, Chicago, Jansen, McClurg & Co., 1880, was by E. Goodman Howland.

Man proposes, Boston, Lee, 1880, was by Fr. H: Underwood.

Miss Margery's roses, Phila., Peterson, 1879, was by R. C. Meyers.

Miss Nancy, Phila., McKay, 1884, was by Ida Rahm.

Twice married, N. Y., Dix & Edwards, 1855, was by Calvin W. Philleo.

Up from the Cape, Boston, Estes, 1883, was by Hezekiah Butterworth.

Humors and Blunders.

THE following occurred in a library not 1000 miles from New York:

Reader (to the attendant at the desk): "Have you the 'Autocrat of the breakfast table'?"

Attendant: "I think so; but am not sure. Is it a cook book?"

Probably that attendant would call the same author's "Over the teacups" a lot of receipts for steeping tea. She is married now, and I shouldn't be surprised to find the books in her kitchen library.

It was an assistant (?) in the same library who asked of another where, *in fiction*, she would find Spenser's "Faerie Queene."

An order. Please send us with best price for export 1 Lindenfelt's Electric Cord Catalogue Rules.

Asked for: "She, by George Eliot," "Saint nickels magazine," "The Madonna at the wash tub," "The lady in white," "Building noose."

Book called for by young lady. "Satan's wood-box," by J. T. Trowbridge.

A SCENE IN THE LIBRARY—(a true story).—Time, a blazing hot day. Polite lady enters and addresses the librarian.

P. Lady: "May I open the register?"

Librarian (astonished): "Why, isn't it warm enough in here?"

P. Lady: "Oh! yes, thank you, but I meant the register where the tickets are kept."


Librarian: "You don't mean the card catalog, do you?"

P. Lady: "Yes."

Librarian faints and has to be carried out.

The next day the following sign appeared on the catalog case.

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136, Strand, W. C., and 37, Piccadilly, W., London, England.

Annual Catalogues, 1890.

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Free Public Library, Newark, N. J.
Haverford College.

Johns Hopkins University.
Mercantile Library Association, N. Y.
Miami University.
N. Y. State Library.
N. Y. Hospital Library.
Ohio State University.
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